

Why Liv Ullmann can never be an Ingmar Bergman

Gov't readies sale of Mimosa leisure complex at Clark

New Delhi bombings leave 61 dead

Sleeping cultural giant wakes up in Iloilo



ABS-CBN says reporter didn't post terrorist's bail

LACK OF AN ANTITERRORISM LAW IN THE country, not intervention by media, caused the release of terror suspect Tyrone del Rosario Santos, alias Dawud Muslim Santos, ABS-CBN said in a statement yesterday.

The broadcasting giant issued the statement after the INQUIRER reported that one of its broadcasters, Julius Babao, had been

ABS-CBN/A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

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★★

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Priest summons spirits to join GMA ouster bid

By DJ Yap

ALTHOUGH THE CATHOLIC Church does not officially admit the existence of ghosts, "running priest" Fr. Robert Reyes is not above invoking the spirits

PRIEST/A22



Abu Sanctuary



Convicts confirm Abu Sayyaf sanctuary

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE SEVEN-MONTH TRIAL OF the accused in the Valentine's Day bombings in Makati City provided a window into the inner workings of the regional terrorist network Jamaah Islamiyah and its local affiliate, the Abu Sayyaf, in Mindanao.

Their testimonies confirmed findings by the intelligence community that the Abu Sayyaf had found sanctuary on Mt. Cararao (spelled Kararao locally) in Lanao del Sur and that Indonesian JI members had been conducting trainings in the handling of weapons and explosives and in the laying of land mines.

The terrorists had eluded pursuing soldiers by keeping their numbers low, and by moving all the time.

The testimonies also confirmed that the JI had been using Mindanao primarily as a training base, with the ASG providing the foot

CONVICTS/A4

GMA foes recruiting PSG men—Gonzalez

Bares try to penetrate Palace 'circle of bodyguards'

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

FORMER HIGH RANKING military officers are trying to penetrate President Macapagal-Arroyo's tight circle of bodyguards to persuade them to withdraw their loyalty to her, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday, citing what he called reliable but still raw reports.

"This is part of efforts to wean away the Armed Forces from the chain of command," he said.

Gonzalez's statement followed a US Embassy report carried by the INQUIRER that Ms Arroyo, apparently concerned about her personal safety at the height of the "Hello Garci" scandal in July, had ordered the presidential guards to leave their weapons in armories so no one of suspect loyalty could come near her carrying a gun.

The US Embassy refused to comment on the INQUIRER story, which Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye had dismissed as "fiction."

"Last night, a reliable source told me that some ranking former PSG officials are trying to penetrate the PSG," Gonzalez said, referring to the Presidential Security Group.

He said the report was "raw but this is not an ordinary gossip."

"This could even be a psychological maneuver to cause dissension among loyal members of the AFP," he said.

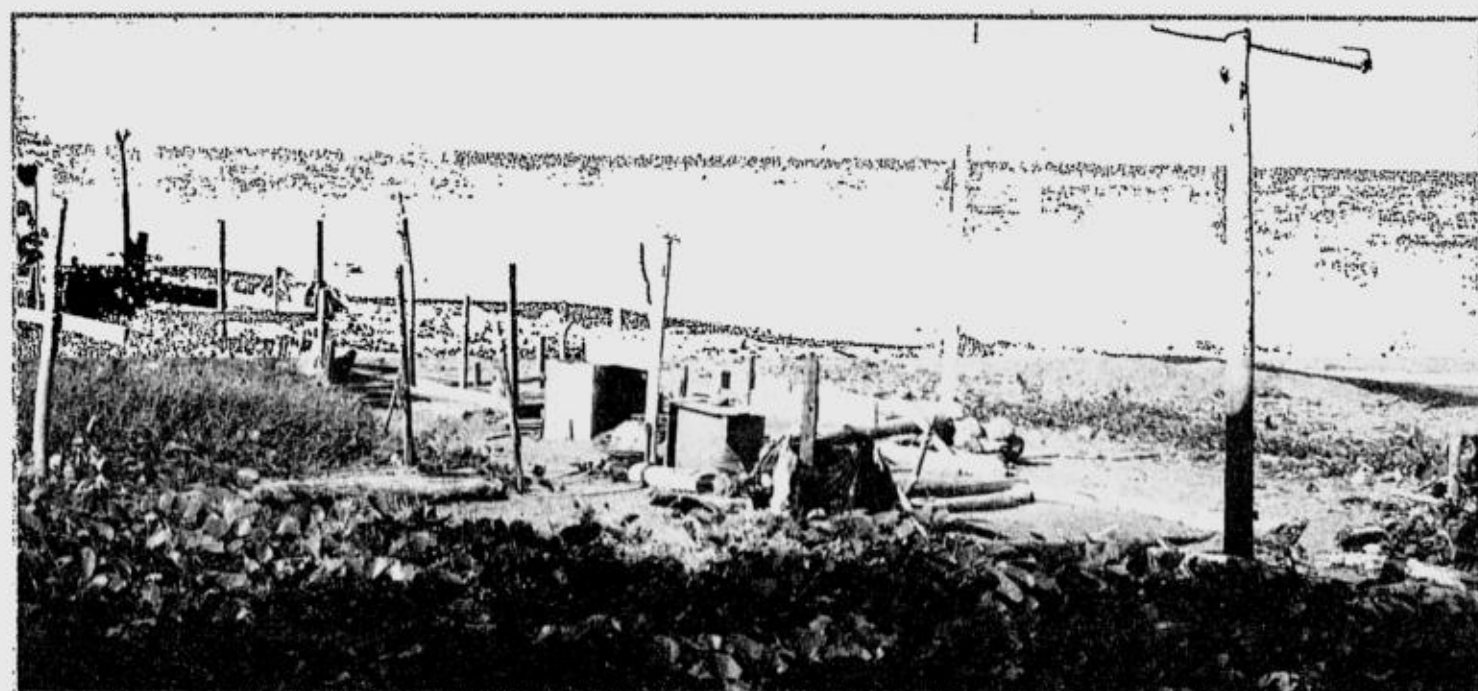
"I trust the chain of command is holding," Gonzalez said, adding he trusted the PSG would remain loyal to Ms Arroyo.

He said this was why he found it "difficult to believe" the US Embassy report about Ms Arroyo supposedly being wary at one point of her bodyguards.

"I'm sure that the guards with her are trusted and loyal to her," Gonzalez said. He said he "can't see any situation of that kind happening."

The secretary also said that

GMA FOES/A4



MASS GRAVES BY THE SEA

Wooden crosses mark the mass graves of people who were buried alive in the collapsed Rapador Building in Real, Quezon, when landslides struck the coastal town last year. (Story in Across the Nation, Page A17.)

DELFIN T. MALLARI JR./PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Ex-janitor celebrities' favorite mortician

By Artha Kira Paredes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SHE DIDN'T GET TO VOTE FOR actor Fernando Poe Jr. during the May 2004 presidential election because she was busy working.

But when the losing opposition standard-bearer died in December last year, Victoria Pagayon did not have to join the thousands of fans who lined up for hours for a glimpse of the much-loved actor whose remains lay at the Santo

Domingo Church in Quezon City.

When the country mourned the death of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin in June, Catholics from all over the country joined the throng at the Manila Cathedral to bid him farewell.

Again, Pagayon, a Roman Catholic, not only spent four hours with Sin, she was even able to kiss his ring.

"Hindi na ako nakipila. So-long-solo ko nga sila, kitang-ki"

EX-JANITOR/A6

First Mass enshrined in Limasawa

By Christian V. Esguerra

LIMASAWA ISLAND—THE SITE of the first Roman Catholic Mass in the country now has a structure befitting its historical and religious importance.

The Shrine of the Holy First Mass on this island in Southern Leyte, where the galleon Victoria of Ferdinand Magellan was believed to have docked 484 years ago, has been refurbished.

Upon Magellan's instructions, Spanish priest Pedro de Valderama celebrated the first Mass in the country on March 31, 1521, an Easter Sunday. It would be the start of Catholicism in the country.

Others claim, however, that the first Mass was celebrated in Butuan on an island called Mazaua, the name mentioned by Magellan's chronicler Antonio Pigafetta. Due to centuries of silting, the island was believed to have fused with Butuan in Agusan del Norte.

The new shrine sits on a donated private property atop a hill. Now a radiant edifice of bricks and polished concrete, the shrine rose from the ruins of the wooden church built in 1970. The wooden church was flattened by a typhoon nine years later.

Bishop Precioso Cantillas of the Diocese of Maasin, Leyte,

blessed the new shrine on Saturday as a fitting closing to the National Eucharistic and Marian Year, the commemoration of the central mystery of the Catholic faith.

"The Eucharist and our faith are an essential part of our existence," Cantillas told the INQUIRER in an interview.

But the real story is about the 6,000 or so people of this island town.

They're among the poorest in the country, but they're probably among the richest in terms of preserving and living

FIRST/A22



LIMASAWA Island fortifies its claim of hosting the country's first Mass with a shrine.

CHRISTIAN V. ESQUERRA

Essays resurrect Pampanga folklore on the supernatural

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—WITCHES, MONSTERS and ghosts inhabited the ancient Kapampangan world that could spook modern Halloween creatures, according to an unpublished collection of essays by a renowned ethnographer and archaeologist.

Dr. Henry Otley Beyer resurrected folk beliefs in the supernatural in his research conducted in Pampanga and Tarlac in 1910, fielding his Kapampangan students at the University of the Philippines to gather accounts from old people in the region.

The original essays—the only local litera-

ture on the topic so far—are in the care of the Beyer family in Australia, according to Robby Tantingco, director of the Holy Angel University's Center for Kapampangan Studies.

Reproductions of the essays are available at the center in Angeles City.

Tantingco said it was through art dealer George Alcantara that the center learned of the existence of the almost 100-year-old collection.

"It showed that every day was Halloween for the ancient Kapampangan," Tantingco said.

One of the devils in the dark Kapampangan world was the *magcucutud*—root word *cutud*,

ESSAYS/A6



THE ANCIENT Kapampangan had their own spooky creatures (from left), the "patianac," "magcucutud," "cafe" and "magcucusin."

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM HOLY ANGEL UNIVERSITY'S CENTER FOR KAPAMPANGAN STUDIES

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread over Eastern Visayas and Northern Mindanao. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY CHONA GAUANG, PDI RESEARCH/10/31/05

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Itanilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Yuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laang	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Togayay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Laonipi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Catapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

3 metro solons tell where their fertilizer funds went

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

IT WAS SOLELY MEANT FOR FARM INPUTS, BUT A PORTION of the P728-million fertilizer fund was used to buy waste shredding machines and finance fishing and pig and chicken farming in Metro Manila.

The fund was believed to have been distributed to President Macapagal-Arroyo's political allies to boost her presidential campaign in the runup to the May 2004 presidential elections.

A Commission on Audit report obtained by the INQUIRER showed that the Department of Agriculture (DA) allocated P11 million of the fund for three Metro Manila congressmen in February 2004.

According to a photocopy of the report submitted to the Senate committee on agriculture and food, the three were Rep. Federico Sandoval of Malabon and Navotas, who got P3 million; Rep. Nanette Daza of Quezon City, P3 million; and Rep. Eduardo Zialcita, P5 million.

Sandoval of the Liberal Party, and Daza and Zialcita, both members of the ruling Lakas-CMD, are allies of the President.

Reached by phone while vacationing in the Visayas, Sandoval admitted that his district received P3 million from the fertilizer fund after the DA provided him with a list of projects that could be financed.

"We don't need fertilizers in Malabon and Navotas," said Sandoval. The choice of the shredding machine "did not come from me," said Sandoval.

"They were the ones who advised me to choose that (machine)."

He said the machine, delivered in July or August last year, was to shred to pieces old, rotten garbage in the markets so that they could be used as natural fertilizers. "Alternately, the machine can be used to cut tree branches into small pieces so that they can fit garbage trucks," he said.

But instead of helping his district manage its waste disposal system, the machine had become an "object of jealousy" among supporters. It has yet to be awarded to any of the public markets in his area.

Flagship project

Daza also purchased a garbage shredding machine.

"One of my flagship projects is waste management and for that reason I was able to purchase composting equipment which is a shredding machine. This is now being used in the Payatas dump," she said.

Zialcita said the DA money went to livelihood training for "livestock dispersal" and modern fishing.

"We have nothing to do with fertilizers," said Zialcita, pointing out that the city's first district is a fishing town. "I don't know

where the DA got its funds," said Zialcita, when asked if he knew the P5 million his district got had come from the fertilizer fund.

The Department of Budget and Management released the P728 million to Agriculture Secretary Luis "Cito" Lorenz under a special allotment release order (SARO) on Feb. 3, 2004.

Brush chipper

In his April 26, 2004, letter to DA regional executive director Dennis Araullo, Sandoval requested that the P3 million be used to buy a Tornado brush chipper/shredder, which is capable of shredding five tons of market waste per hour.

The equipment "would be functional in the waste management in my district," Sandoval said in his letter. The P3-million shredder was bought from the LCV Design & Fabrication Corp. in Quezon City on May 7, 2004.

This issue cropped up during the Senate committee on agriculture's second hearing on the alleged mismanagement of the fertilizer fund last Wednesday, but Sandoval's name was not mentioned then.

Boncodin testimony

Emma Espina, COA assistant commissioner, said she was not in the best position to tell if a machine shredder fell under the category of farm inputs. She also admitted that the commission didn't know who was using it.

In a deposition given that same day

while she was confined at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute for high blood pressure, former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the DBM released the fertilizer fund for farm inputs.

"I would like to state that the release made by the DBM was for farm inputs which, in our own understanding, could incorporate fertilizers, seeds and even insecticides," she said.

"But the actual purpose for which this is used will, of course, depend on the Department of Agriculture."

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the committee on agriculture, opened the inquiry into the supposed anomaly following a Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism report that the fertilizer fund did not reach the farmers.

Of the P728-million fund, the DA allocated P407 million to 105 congressmen; P265 million to governors and P56 million to mayors, who were listed as proponents of the department's Gintuang Masaganang Ani farm inputs and implements program.

At last week's hearing, COA officials, however, said that P723 million was released to the DA regional field units (RFUs), while the rest remained with the DA main office.

Of the P723 million, the officials said that only P615 million was distributed to the beneficiaries, such as the suppliers of farm implements, local government units, and non-government organizations and people's organizations.

Diwalwal death toll likely to rise

By Dennis Jay C. Santos
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MT. DIWALWAL, COMPOSTELA VALLEY—THE death toll in Wednesday's gold mine tunnel accident here could rise to 24 after efforts to rescue 13 people still trapped inside the collapsed tunnel were hampered by toxic fumes, officials said Sunday.

Carmelito Lupo, chief of the Office of Civil Defense in Southern Mindanao, said search and rescue efforts for the trapped miners had to be called off because rescuers could not descend into the tunnel, owned by JB Mining Management, due to the lack of gas masks to fend off the toxic fumes.

"It remains to be seen," when digging for the missing miners can actually start, said Edgar Solano, spokesperson of the civil defense office.

At least 11 people were confirmed killed when an explosion hit the tunnel on Wednesday and caused a cave-in. Some of the victims, who were working in an adjoining tunnel, were killed by toxic gas from the explosion, according to the OCD.

"We doubt if we can find any survivor," Lupo said.

Edilberto Areza, director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, said rescuers were trying to remove the fumes before they could start digging for the missing in earnest.

Four blowers have been installed to try to dissipate the toxic fumes.

Areza said they suspect the explosion, which triggered the toxic fumes, was caused by an acetylene tank inside the tunnel. He said the workers were also doing some railing work using welding tools.

JB Mining, he said, had stopped using wood to fortify its tunnels and had been using steel to prevent cave-ins.

But Areza said it was also possible the explosion was caused by sabotage and this was being looked into.

"We are not discounting the possibility that it was sabotage. There might be somebody who planted an explosive in the tunnel," he said.

Franco Tito, Mt. Diwalwal village chief, earlier said the explosion might have been caused by dynamite.

The government has banned the use of dynamite in the area because of the danger it poses.

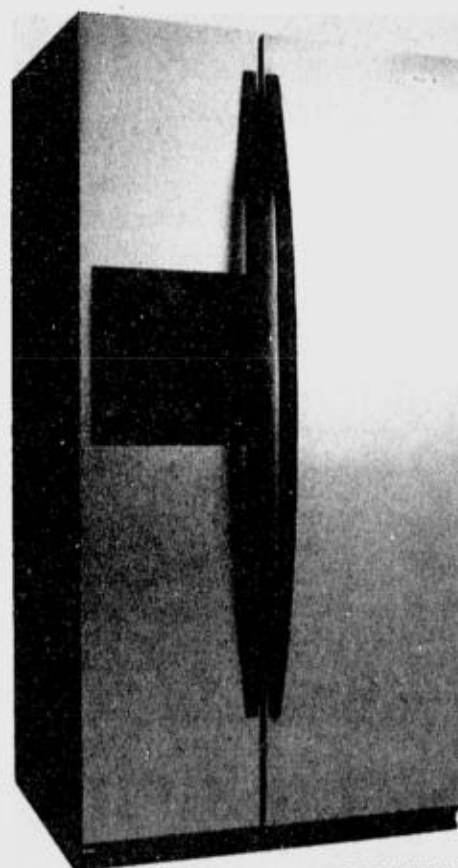
Areza, meanwhile, said Tito's report that there were more miners in the collapsed tunnel than JB Mining Management has admitted might be true.

"JBMC might just be revealing only 75 percent of the truth. There could be other secrets because the tunnel remains shut," he said.

With Blanche S. Rivera; AFP

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SENSING THE DIFFERENCE

Mauban, RP's newest illegal logging center

By Blanche S. Rivera

THEY NEVER LEARN.

Less than a year after flash floods and landslides caused by massive deforestation killed and displaced thousands of people in Quezon province, one of its towns has emerged as the center of illegal logging in Luzon, the government's anti-illegal logging team said.

Task Force Sagip-Kalikasan has identified Mauban, Quezon as the new center of illegal logging activity, as its numerous river systems make it nearly impossible for the authorities to monitor the movement of illegal logs.

Task force deputy head Nilo Tamoria said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had seized at least P12 million worth of illegally harvested timber in Mauban.

This represented a fourth of the total P56 million worth of timber and logging equipment confiscated by the task force since December last year.

"Mauban itself has no more trees, but it is a very convenient point for transporting logs," Tamoria said in an interview.

"Mauban has a lot of river systems. Even I was surprised at how many there were. It would be very hard to install checkpoints in all the rivers," he said.

Tamoria's team recently intercepted another shipment of 7,398 board feet of lava-an, mayapis, tanguile and other species for furniture making worth around P470,000 in Barangay Balay-Balay in Mauban.

The seized timber and sawmill equipment allegedly belonged to Raquel Magbuhos, wife of Kalayaan, Laguna, Vice Mayor Celestino Magbuhos Jr.; Barangay Captain Serapin de la Rosa and Wilson Banagan, a relative of alleged illegal logging operator Rose Banagan.

The seizure included a power chainsaw, two Bandmill units, two 4DR Mitsubishi engines, one Yanmar 2-cylinder engine and several milling accessories, according to the task force's report.

"Mauban has become a frequent destination of logs from Regions 2 and 3 through the Pacific Ocean because there are fewer checkpoints to pass through than if they take the land route," Tamoria said.

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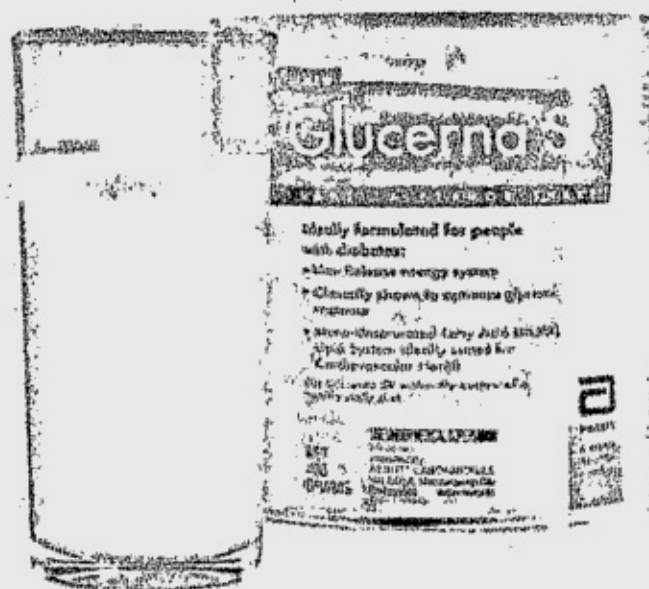
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GMA foes recruiting PSG men—Gonzalez

From page A1

while he was not doubting the loyalty of the PSG, he did on some occasions tell military officials about the need to tighten Ms Arroyo's security.

He also said that history had shown that some leaders, like Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and South Korean President Park Chung-hee, were assassinated by their own security people.

Right at home, some of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' own security officers were accused of involvement in a plot to unseat him in 1986. Marcos brought at least one of them before television cameras at the height of the popular revolt that forced him to flee Malacañang.

Digging muck

Bunye yesterday branded the report as "the kind of muck dug up by spies of the power-hungry and desperate opposition."

"The President's guards and the Armed Forces, in general, have never been as professional as they are in their duty to uphold the Constitution and insulate the uniform from partisan politics," he said in his weekly newspaper column "View from the Palace."

Bunye appealed to the media "for prudence and a sense of public responsibility in treating stories such as these."

Driving a wedge

The US Embassy report, and others which had been the subject of *INQUIRER* stories, was believed to be among the confidential files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation allegedly stolen by former FBI Filipino-American intelligence analyst Leandro Aragoncillo and passed on to US-based former Philippine police officer Michael Aquino and some politicians in Manila.

Several opposition figures later publicly admitted receiving e-mail messages from Aquino but said they did not believe these were confidential in nature.

Aragoncillo and Aquino have been detained in the United States on spying charges.

'Come out in the open'

Administration lawmakers charged that the release of the supposed embassy report was an attempt to drive a wedge between Ms Arroyo and her allies, and ultimately weaken

her hold on power.

Rep. Benasag Macarambon (NPC, Lanao del Sur), vice chair of the House of Representatives committee on national defense and security, said that although he found the report's contents "highly doubtful," it tended to project Ms Arroyo as "losing support from her followers and the Armed Forces."

"If what they are saying are true, then these officials—American and Filipino—should come out in the open and corroborate the reports," Macarambon said. "But right now, we can only treat these reports as an imaginary tale."

Something fishy?

Citing an earlier US Embassy report dealing with alleged coup plots against Ms Arroyo and linking former President Fidel V. Ramos to them, Macarambon said there was "one thing common" about those reports.

"They have been trying to pit people who are close to or allies of the President against her, like Vice President Noli de Castro, ex-President Ramos and now her own security group," House Majority Leader Prospero

Nogralles said there was "something fishy" about the release of the embassy reports.

"There is obviously a new attempt to strain RP-US relations and muddle the espionage case [against Aquino and Aragoncillo]," said Nogralles. He did not say who could be behind such an attempt.

Result of desperation

Nogralles believed the releases of the US reports were interrelated.

"These purported US reports were released to cast doubts on the military's loyalty to the President. It is a desperate attempt to smear members of the Armed Forces [who] have remained loyal to the Constitution."

Administration Sen. Richard Gordon said Ms Arroyo's reported order to disarm her bodyguards was "not a good precedent."

"I hope this is not true," he said.

Gordon said the main task of the PSG was to protect the President and her family at all costs.

"Like the US Secret Service, they would really take a bullet for the President. I'd rather that the President start trusting her own security," he said.

No taking sides

Gordon also said PSG personnel must not take sides.

"Their only side is the President's... Once it is perceived that the PSG takes sides, the whole government structure is in danger."

"The whole system is based on trust. Once the system is destroyed, who else can protect the President?" Gordon said.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said Malacañang would never admit the contents of the US intelligence reports, "but it does not have the guts to demand that the US government give a categorical explanation [for] them."

Through it all, the US Embassy has kept its silence. *With a report from Nikko Dizon*

Convicts confirm Abu ...

From page A1

soldiers. Intelligence officials described Indonesia as the terror group's "war front" and Singapore and Malaysia, its "financial center."

Indoctrination was a key element in that training, according to Gappal Bannah Asali, alias "Boy Negro," the Abu Sayyaf member who escaped trial by turning state witness against his three cohorts—Gamal Baharan, Angelo Trinidad and Indonesian Rohmat Abdurrohman. The three were sentenced on Friday to die by lethal injection.

Makati Judge Marissa Macaraig-Guillen had found the three accused guilty of carrying out the bombing of a bus in Makati in February that killed four people and wounded at least 60 others. Trinidad and Baharan, who allegedly placed the bomb in the bus, pleaded guilty. Only Rohmat pleaded not guilty.

Asali said he and his colleagues "were indoctrinated on the missions that they would be undertaking."

Show of Muslim anger

"These missions (bombings) were supposed to take place in order to show the people in Metro Manila the anger of the Muslims against Christians because of the many acts of violence and oppression perpetrated by Christian soldiers against the Muslims," he told the court.

These acts of oppression, Asali said, included the "raping of Muslim women and killing of Muslim men who were defenseless and had not committed any wrong against the Christians."

During training, recruits were required to wear "desert storm brown colored camouflage outfits." They were fully armed, he said.

For their "graduation exercise," trainees were tasked with ambushing soldiers, which they did in Jolo, Sulu, sometime in 2004, Asali said.

Cararao is said to be under the operational control of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the largest secessionist group in Mindanao.

The rebel group, however, has repeatedly denied the existence of any training camp for terrorists in the area.

In a confidential report in September 2004, the government said the MILF had been hosting terror training camps for militant groups from Indonesia and Malaysia for at least seven years. The training camp on Cararao was reportedly set up following the fall of Camp Abubakar during a July 2000 military offensive.

He came to teach Islam

Rohmat had told the court that he taught martial arts to a small group of armed men in Cararao for 10 months starting in 2003, for which he was paid P100,000. He had entered the country illegally months before.

He insisted, however, that it was only months later that he found out that the 15 or so people at the camp were members of the Abu Sayyaf. In the jungle, the group was also known as "Alharo Cator Islamiyah."

Rohmat maintained that he came to the Philippines to teach Islam and kung fu, and not bomb-making—a defense the court found unbelievable.

During the first four months of the training, Rohmat said he physically suffered because the group was "very mobile and [traveled] from one place to another" to elude Philippine troops hunting them.

The military had tagged Rohmat, alias Zaky, as a top JI associate sent to the Philippines to train bombers.

Members of the cell that carried out the Valentine's Day bombing were among Rohmat's students.

Asali said Rohmat personally trained him and two other persons in bomb-making. That training lasted one month and two weeks.

During the time that he spent in Cararao, Asali said he saw Abu Sayyaf leaders Khadaffy Janjalani and Abu Solaiman, as well as Baharan and Trinidad.

ABS-CBN says reporter ...

From page A1

named by President Macapagal-Arroyo as the one who provided bail for Santos.

"ABS-CBN categorically denies that our reporter, Julius Babao, posted bail to secure the release of terror suspect Dawud Santos. Our Code of Ethics prohibits us from intervening in legal processes," the company said.

"On the night Babao's exclusive aired, it was followed by another exclusive with the military intelligence agent who investigated Dawud. The agent lamented the lack of an antiterrorism law, which would have made the charge of terrorism a nonbailable offense," it said.

Ms Arroyo made the disclosure about Babao to *INQUIRER* columnist Ramon Tulfo over lunch in Malacañang on Wednesday.

She was said to have described as "very disturbing" the supposed report of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) linking Babao to Santos' case.

"If Julius did it on his own, he has to be sanctioned by ABS-CBN. Let's see what his bosses will have to say. Will they tolerate him?" Tulfo quoted Ms Arroyo as saying.

The broadcasting company said: "ABS-CBN condemns in the strongest terms this insidious move on the part of the government and its agents to point the finger at media to cover up for its own indecision and inaction."

Santos has been tagged as a key member of the self-styled Rajah Soliman Movement (RSM), a group allegedly allied with the regional terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah and its local affiliate, the Abu Sayyaf.

On Tuesday, authorities arrested the acknowledged leader of the RSM and Tyrone's brother, Hilario del Rosario Santos, alias Ahmad Santos, in Zamboanga City. A total of 49 ammo rounds for a recoilless rifle (a kind of bazooka) and several blasting caps were found stashed in the house where Santos stayed.

The police first cracked down on the group in May 2002 after receiving reports that it had been training its members in terroristic activities at a religious school in Barangay Malong, Anda, Pangasinan.

Santos, who was arrested with several others during that crackdown, posted bail of P80,000 and disappeared.

He was arrested again on March 22 in Quezon City based on a warrant issued by a Tarlac court in 2002 for illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

His arrest was part of a police sweep on suspected terrorists following the Feb. 14 bomb blast on a bus at the Edsa-Ayala intersection in Makati City and the March 14 riot by Abu Sayyaf suspects at the Camp Bagong Diwa prison in Taguig.

The RSM claimed responsibility not only for the Feb. 14 bombing in Makati that killed three people but also the bombing of the SuperFerry passenger ship on Feb. 27, 2004 in Manila Bay that killed more than 100 people.

Released on April 26 after posting bail, Santos left the Isafp compound at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City in an ABS-CBN van, according to media reports.

A ranking intelligence officer yesterday said that the military had briefly looked into the role Babao had played in the release of Santos.

"But is there anything unlawful in helping someone post bail?" said the officer. "So we let it be."

In agreeing to talk to the *INQUIRER*, the officer made it a precondition to be quoted unnamed, saying he did not want to be exposed because of the sensitivity of his position in the intelligence community.

When first asked about the subject, the officer blurted out: "Yeah, that was some time ago."

His tone suggested that the intelligence community had dropped the matter. "What we know is that when Dawud posted bail, Babao was there," the intelligence officer said.

Asked if the military did not investigate the matter further, the officer said it did and learned that the bail had come from Babao.

"Sa kanya galing 'yun (The bail money came from him)," he said.

Babao points to Tiongco

But Babao has categorically denied posting bail for Santos.

The broadcaster said it was audio expert Jonathan Tiongco who arranged for the bail. Environment Secretary Michael Defensor had presented Tiongco to the public in August in an effort to prove that the "Hello Gard" tapes were fake.

"Tiongco offered to help because he said Santos had been framed. I merely connected them, that's all," Babao had said.

Babao had covered the hearings of Santos' case at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 96, where Santos had applied for bail. His lawyer, Homobono Adaza, said Santos' bail was lowered from P200,000 to P40,000.

With a report from Luige A. del Puerto

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Vidal urges GMA foes to join coalition gov't, but admits it's hard

CEBU CITY—ARCH-bishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal wants the opposition to join the so-called coalition government proposed by President Macapagal-Arroyo but doubts they would do since she's no longer credible.

"They should join the coalition government," Vidal told reporters when asked what Ms Arroyo's critics should do amid her consistent refusal to step down despite allegations of election fraud.

The Cebu archbishop admitted the invitation was difficult to accept because it came from Malacañang which has been accused of hiding the truth about the "Hello Garci" scandal.

"What's bad among us today is that people no longer believe (in the President)," he said. "They're already indifferent."

He said rallies were indications that the people were "not satisfied" because the truth about the legitimacy of the Arroyo government had yet to come out.

"(Ms Arroyo) should tell the public the truth," he said. "But how can you force a person to do it?"

No snap polls

Vidal was earlier reported as suggesting a snap election to settle the current political impasse. Sen. Sergio Osmeña III claimed the prelate was pushing the proposal along with El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde.

But in the interview, Vidal categorically denied he was advocating a snap election, pointing out that it was "not in the Constitution."

But he admitted working to reconcile the President with her critics. He did not elaborate. "As much as possible, we do it without fanfare," he said.

Vidal admitted attending a gathering of the Makati Business Club this month but said he just listened and that a snap election was never discussed.

"As I understood it, they (just) wanted to shorten the term of the President," he said.

'Coming out'

Meanwhile, the Black and White Movement (BWM), an organization of the middle forces demanding Ms Arroyo's ouster, is continuing to woo Vice President Noli de Castro to lead the country under a transitional government.

The coalition is planning to host a "coming out party" for De Castro to mark Bonifacio Day in an effort to convince him to take the helm of a post-Arroyo government.

On Nov. 30, the BWM will hold KABAYANihan, an event where the group hopes De Castro would finally agree to become President once Ms Arroyo is ousted or resigns.

"We are hoping that on that day he would come out and accept our invitation. We have not finalized the venue but we are looking at making it a whole-day affair," said BWM convenor Enteng Romano, in a phone interview yesterday. **Christian V. Esguerra, with Tara V. Quismundo**

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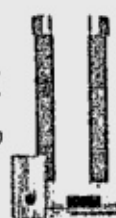
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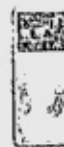
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TRICK OR TREAT
Visitors get into the Halloween spirit at the Enchanted Kingdom theme park in Laguna.

ERIK ARAZAS

Ex-janitor celebrities' favorite mortician

From page A1

ta at hawak ko pa ang buong katawan, patay nga lang (I did not fall in line. I had them all to myself and I was even able to touch them. But they were dead)," said Pagayon, 39, a mortician at the Arlington Memorial Chapel on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City.

She said Poe and Sin were two of her most unforgettable celebrity clients.

Other famous clients she had embalmed were actors Rico Yan and Mico Sotto and former Senators Blas Ople and Raul Roco.

Celebrity status

Because of her reputation as the embalmer of prominent people, Pagayon is often asked by relatives of her clients at Arlington to have their photographs taken with her.

She said some of them would even talk to their dead and say, "O Mommy, yung nag-embalsama sa iyo embalsamadora ni FPJ ha (Hey, Mommy, the one who embalmed you is FPJ's embalmer)."

As Arlington's top mortician, Pagayon would be fetched in the wee hours of the morning or on her days off when there were prominent clients because they preferred her care and attention to detail.

Bobby Vargas, Arlington funeral director and client relations officer, said many were surprised to find out that their top mortician was a woman.

"She's good and many of our clients tell us that she delivers excellent service," he said.

He added that some clients would specifically ask for Pagayon, while others would even arrange for her to be taken out of town for her services.

They like her because she does good work and accedes to the family's requests for their dead. "Hindi siya makahindi (She cannot say no)," Vargas said. "The owner of Arlington also prefers that she service the big clients."

Careful and meticulous

According to Pagayon, she's in demand because she's careful and meticulous.

"Pinapagaya nila sa akin yung mga pictures nila nung nabubuhay pa sila, nagagaya ko naman (The relatives ask me to make their dead look like their photographs when they were still alive. I am able to do that)," she said.

Pagayon said she would spend at least four hours with each client in the morgue. Her tasks included bathing, giving manicure and pedicure, embalming and applying makeup.

She said applying makeup on the dead was not the same as applying it on someone who was alive. A dead person's skin and its texture were different from the living, so there were cosmetics specially made for the dead.



PAGAYON:
Makeover for dead celebrities.

masasabi ng kanilang pamilya. Proud naman ako sa sarili ko dahil sa tiwala nila at saka napupuri ang aking paggawa (I am very meticulous with all my clients because I bear in mind what their relatives would say. I'm proud of what I do because the relatives trust me and tell me if I've done a good job)," she said.

Show biz start

Pagayon, a native of Iloilo, came to Metro Manila with her sister 16 years ago to look for work. A graduate of a vocational course in hotel and restaurant management, she landed a job as a janitor for record and movie producer Vic del Rosario.

But when Del Rosario's company implemented cost-cutting measures, Pagayon was laid off. In 1995, she worked as a janitor at Paz Funeral Homes and was tasked with cleaning the morgue. Fellow workers convinced her to give embalming a try.

She had no prior experience save for this: As a child, she had watched morticians prepare her departed relatives for the wake.

"When I was in Grade 6, I watched morticians prepare the bodies of my grandmother and my aunt. I was not scared," she said.

Pagayon said she used to suck on candies during her first three months of training. After that, she got used to the process and her job did not even affect her appetite.

After a year's apprenticeship as a mortician at Paz, she took and passed the embalmer's licensure examination given by the Department of Health.

First break

When Pagayon heard about an opening for a mortician at Arlington, she applied and got accepted. After six months, she became a regular employee. Her bosses noticed her skills when she "fixed" a botched job by another mortician.

"The relatives were angry because they did not like the way their dead was made up. By closely following a picture of the client when he was still alive, I was able to get it right," she said.

"From then on, my bosses would call for me every time there was a big client."

Pagayon said she kept up with the latest embalming trends by reading magazines on funeral services that she borrowed from her bosses.

"I read features on the latest chemicals for embalming, as well as training centers and schools for embalmers," she said.

Dead clean

Pagayon said she would see to it the bodies she embalmed were clean so it would not be unsanitary to touch, hold or even kiss them. Detained former President Joseph Estrada, who was given a government pass to visit Poe's wake last year, had the casket of his best friend opened so he could kiss and hug the late actor.

"Pati si Sharon Cuneta pumunta rito at niyakap-yakap si FPJ noong matapos na siyang ayusan (Even Sharon Cuneta went to Arlington and hugged Poe after we finished preparing him for the wake)," she said.

In spite of being known as a mortician to the stars, Pagayon said she gave equal treatment to all her clients—famous or not.

"Sa lahat ng mga kliyente, iniingatan ko talaga ang paggawa kasi iniisip ko rin ang

Essays resurrect Pampanga folklore on the supernatural

From page A1

meaning "to cut." This was a creature with "a flat nose, a crooked tongue, red eyes and large ears" whose upper torso could separate from its body to fly at night in search of cadavers.

Once a cadaver was spotted, the *magcucutud* "would poison the air, steal the corpse and with a magic potion bring the dead body back to life, after which he would slice the flesh and cook it in blood."

This is why until today someone is assigned by the bereaved family to stay awake all night to watch over the dead during the wake.

The only way to kill this creature was to look for the lower half of the body and sprinkle it with damp salt and black pepper so the upper body could never rejoin it. This is the Kapampangan version of the Tagalog's *manananggal*.

A meaner witch

The *magcucutinu* was the Kapampangan version of the Tagalog's *mangkukulam* (witch), but only a meaner and more evil kind.

The creature had the power to cause pain on any person even from a great distance, either to avenge himself or a friend, or for sheer pleasure. He could put a live chicken, poison or a metal object inside one's body, causing extreme suffering.

cause he also abducted children but instead of bleeding them to death, he sucked their blood like vampires. Children who were pale and thin were often suspected of being victims of this creature.

The *cafre* (*kapre*) was a cigar-chomping giant 10 to 15 feet tall, very dark, wearing a long black coat with a cigar in his mouth. It had long arms and a beard and carried a long cane that he used to knock the heads of people.

He appeared at night during a slight drizzle, staying under a large tree or squatting on its branches and sometimes dangling his legs.

Spirit of the dead

The *maglague* (the Tagalog's *multo*) was the spirit of an ancestor or dead relative that was detained on earth for one reason or another, usually to avenge a murder or to locate a hidden treasure for the benefit of the bereaved family.

The *maglilili* was a spirit that cast its spell on people who then would spend hours, sometimes days, trying to find their way home.

The *patianac* were tiny creatures (the Tagalog *duwende*) who were said to be the souls of unbaptized children still wandering in this world.

A woman having difficulty giving birth was often thought to be tormented by a *patianac*; the solution was for the midwife to sprinkle a handful of salt in the four corners of the room. The creatures reportedly couldn't stand the sight of salt.

In some towns in Pampanga, the *patianac* was considered a mischievous dwarf who threw stones and sand at the houses of unchaste priests and unfaithful husbands and women who ignored the creatures' romantic overtures.

The *culariut* was another kind of dwarf who lived in bamboo thickets and underground.

Large anthills or termite mounds were thought to be the abode of the *culariut*, which was why children who point in their direction had to bite their fingers, and say, "Tabi po, puera nunu (Please let me pass, I hope there is no dwarf here)."

Correction

IN THE OCT. 29 issue, the editorial in the Opinion section on Page A12—"Avian menace"—misstated the location of the Liguasan marsh. The Liguasan marsh is in North Cotabato—not Agusan.

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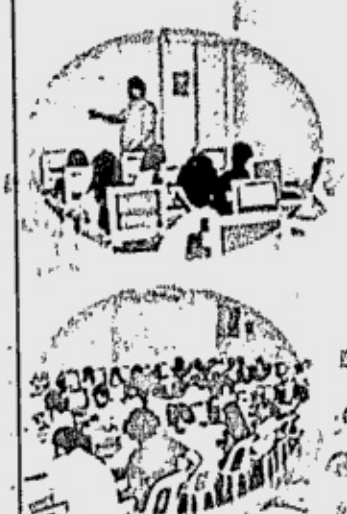
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GMA: India blasts show need to pass antiterror law

By Christine O. Avendaño

CONDEMNING SATURDAY'S terrorist attacks in India as a "work of evil," President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered local law enforcers to be on the alert as the nation remembers its dead this week.

The President said the New Delhi explosions only underscored the need for the Philippines to swiftly pass an antiterror

law "to cut the movement of terrorists within our shores."

"I join the Filipinos in expressing our profound sympathies to the families of the victims of the latest attacks in New Delhi, which came to pass while Indians were about to observe a major Hindu holiday," the President said in a statement.

The latest terrorist attacks only showed "the vulnerability of all nations and peoples, including

ourselves, to the heinous work of evil," she added.

The President then reminded Congress to pass an antiterror law, saying the New Delhi attacks "should be another strong signal and impetus" for the country to do this.

"I direct all law enforcement authorities to keep tight watch over the holidays as we keep our people, with their full cooperation, out of harm's way," Ms Arroyo said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday that based on the latest report of the Philippine Embassy in New Delhi, no Filipinos were killed or hurt in the series of explosions in India.

Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said in a phone interview that Philippine Consul General in New Delhi Aniceta Bugarin reported at 10 p.m. on Saturday that there were no Filipino casualties.

So far, latest news reports had it at least 61 people had been killed and over 100 injured in what the Indian government believed was a terrorist attack.

The explosions ripped through a bus and crowded markets in the Indian capital as people prepared for Delevi, the Hindu festival of lights.

As a result of the Indian explosions, Philippine police are keeping a tighter watch on the country's "soft targets" such as mar-

kets and malls.

"We do not want (what happened in) New Delhi to happen here," declared Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Philippine National Police spokesperson.

Metro Manila has been placed on full alert since Friday and the rest of the country is on heightened alert as Filipinos commemorate the All Saints' Day holiday.

With Nikko Dizon and Luige A. del Puerto

Bird flu drive needs Flavier, Recto suggests

By TJ Burgonio

"HE'S THE COUNTRY'S MOST FAMOUS doctor and he projects well in media."

Why not then, asked Sen. Ralph Recto, engage Senate Pro Tempore and former Health Secretary Juan Flavier as the government's "poster boy" in its bid to alert the people about the dangers of the bird flu virus?

Recto said that while the government had been reported to have allocated some P70 million for its information drive on the disease, which is raising worldwide concern because of its potential to become a pandemic, there had so far been no sign the government had launched the campaign.

"We still have to see one public service TV or print ad," Recto said.

The World Health Organization has urged governments to disseminate information about the avian flu to prevent panic that may be triggered because of misconceptions about the virus.

To energize the campaign, Recto suggested the government tap Flavier, who as health secretary during the Ramos administration ably communicated to the people the government's population program through witty campaign ads.

"If it wants its bird flu campaign to fly, then it should get Manong Johnny on board," he said.

Recto, chair of the Senate committee on ways and means, said Flavier's record at the Department of Health regarding "marketing programs and mobilizing public opinion" remained unsurpassed.

"He's got this style that makes warnings sensible and acceptable to the public without causing them alarm. If we're up against a possible pandemic, then it's time to bring out the Senate's Mr. Big," he said.

The Philippines, Singapore and Brunei are the only Southeast Asian countries still free of the deadly H5N1 strain of avian flu virus that has killed thousands of fowl and poultry and caused the deaths of 62 people in the region.

Alvarez named GMA adviser

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS designated former Sen. Heherson Alvarez as her presidential adviser for agrarian reform.

Alvarez, who was the first minister of agrarian reform in former President Corazon Aquino's administration, told the INQUIRER yesterday that Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had informed him of his appointment to the Cabinet-rank position.

"I am happy to accept the challenge," he said in a phone interview.

Alvarez said the President had told him as early as three weeks ago that she was considering him for the position.

He said his priority would be to implement the land reform program that was started during Aquino's term and which he hoped to finish under Ms Arroyo's administration.

Asked to comment on his joining the government at a time the President is being hounded by the worst crisis of her administration, Alvarez said he did not mind.

"We have to give the country some breathing spell and deliver the fundamental and basic services to the people," he said.

Christine O. Avendaño

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OFW was murdered, autopsy shows

By Jerome Aning

AN AUTOPSY ON THE BODY OF IVY Collantes-Bautista, a Filipino domestic helper said to have committed suicide in Spain on Sept. 27, indicated she was murdered, the militant overseas workers group Migrant International said yesterday.

Migrante chair Connie Bragas-Regalado said the autopsy, conducted by Commission on Human Rights medical experts before Collantes was buried in her hometown of Calauan, Laguna, on

Oct. 27, showed "the Spanish and Philippine governments were wrong and the bereaved family was right all along."

Regalado said the autopsy showed the wounds on Collantes' neck were fatal and could have only been inflicted by another person.

The CHR doctors also found bruises and wounds in the maid's chest and stab wounds on her abdomen "indicating that she was tortured before being killed," Regalado said.

The 27-year-old maid was found dead with a kitchen knife in her throat at her employers' house in Santander, Cantabria, Spain. Spanish police ruled her wounds had been self-inflicted.

Collantes' family, however, doubted she had killed herself because she had called them previously indicating she feared for her life.

"They pressed for a thorough investigation but the Department of Foreign Affairs swiftly accepted the Spanish police report and in fact [convinced] the

bereaved family to accept the report so that her remains could be repatriated quickly," Regalado said.

Irineo Maranan, Collantes' uncle and the family's spokesperson, said they want justice for her untimely death.

"We know there was foul play because before she died, Ivy said she noticed three or four strange men lurking near her employers' home. We denounce the DFA for helping the Spanish authorities in covering up this high crime," Maranan said.

Labor mart to offer local, overseas jobs

PROFESSIONAL AND HIGHLY SKILLED SPECIALISTS looking for local and overseas employment need go no farther than the First International Labor Mart on Nov. 10-11 at the Philippine International Convention Center (Forum annex) to register with more than 190 recruitment and manning companies looking for workers.

This was announced by the Department of Labor and Employment through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), the lead agency assigned by Labor Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas to organize the DOLE Labor Opportunity Program (Dolop).

POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said local and foreign employers will attend the labor mart to look for job candidates.

Prospective overseas Filipino workers could qualify in any of the following general skills categories: Administrative and managerial work; agricultural, animal husbandry, forestry, fishing and hunting work; clerical and related work; production and related work; transport equipment operation and labor; professional technical and related work; sales and service work.

Dolop is one of DOLE's marketing initiatives aimed at generating employment opportunities and expanding the country's share of the global labor market.

The First International Labor Mart is one of the four components of Dolop. The others are the First International Labor Forum, the Second International Employers Award, and information about alternative livelihood programs and other business opportunities for OFWs and their families.

The Dolop will actually begin on Nov. 8 but the first two days are reserved for meetings between employers and the recruitment and manning agencies.

Those looking for jobs may come on Nov. 10 and 11 to check out the booths of different government agencies, airlines, financial and banking institutions, travel agencies, hotels and restaurants, and telecommunications companies.

Despite the worldwide economic slowdown, the labor markets in several developed countries are experiencing shortages. The Middle East requires information technology and other high-skill workers to service its construction boom. The aging populations in other countries means workers will be needed to replace retiring office and factory employees.

A. Alano; 89

ARSENIO ALANO, THE FATHER OF Philippine Star lifestyle assistant editor Ching Alano, died on Oct. 29 of natural causes. He was 89.

He is survived by his wife Clara; other children Chelle and Chito Yorro, Baby, Angel and May Ong; grandchildren Jopo and Maay Yorro, and Jen, Agnes and Carla Ong; and sisters Concha Gutierrez and Auring Espino.

His remains lie at the Holy Trinity Chapel at Sucat, Parañaque City. Interment will be on Nov. 4 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque, after the 8 a.m. Mass.

Marshals seize firearm, pyrotechnics at North Harbor

SEA MARSHALS DEPLOYED BY THE Philippine Coast Guard to the Manila North Harbor confiscated a shipment of pyrotechnics and a firearm over the weekend as people rushed to go home to the provinces for the four-day holiday break.

The firearm, a .38-cal. handgun, was

detected yesterday by an X-ray machine of Sulpicio Lines. The gun was in a box that also contained five pieces of ammunition.

The box with the firearm was about to be loaded on Sulpicio Lines' MV Princess of the South at Pier 12 at the North Harbor, a PCG report said.

On Saturday, a team of sea marshals seized 10 cartons of assorted pyrotechnics at Pier 8 at the North Harbor. The pyrotechnics were about to be loaded aboard the MV Mary the Queen owned by MBRS Lines.

According to the PCG report, the shipper of the pyrotechnics, identified

as Carlos de Castro of JRB Forwarding, failed to produce the pertinent documents for the shipment.

Pyrotechnics and other explosive devices are banned aboard passenger vessels because of the threat they pose.

Leila B. Salaverria



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Monday, October 31, 2005
31st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 11:29-36

Gospel: Luke 14:12-14

On a sabbath, Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees. He addressed the man who had invited him and said, "When you give a lunch or a dinner, don't invite your friends, or your brothers and relatives and wealthy neighbors. For surely they will also invite you in return and you will be repaid. When you give a feast, invite instead the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. Fortunate are you then, because they can't repay you; you will be repaid at the Resurrection of the upright."

Commentary
Jesus addresses the man who had invited him to eat with him and tells him that his guest list needs some revamping. He is supposed to invite the poor, the hungry, the weak and the sick, not his family and friends, the wealthy and influential who can reciprocate later and invite him back—an enclosed group. He will be repaid by them, not by God. Jesus is talking about the wedding feast, the kingdom where the poor and the weak and those most in need are taken care of first, but this is supposed to be reflected in all our decisions and meals, work, use of money and resources. Who we choose to eat with (at eucharist, at the table of the Lord, at our own tables and in our own homes) will speak for us, either for good or for condemnation at the resurrection of the dead and our own time for judgment. We live and have been called to walk in the company of those who follow and love Jesus. Company means those we break bread with—and who we lavish our resources and income on—are we truly among the company of Jesus or would he be ill at ease among us and who we dwell with and hang around with? Are we the upright and the just? Who is welcome at our table?

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EXPLOSIVE PLANTED BY NPA 2 soldiers killed, 4 hurt by land mine

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—TWO soldiers were killed and four others were wounded when the military truck they were riding in struck a land mine planted by New People's Army rebels in Bislig, Surigao del Sur, on Sunday, the military reported.

Lt. Col. Francisco Simbajon, Army 4th Infantry Division commander, identified the slain soldiers as Cpl. Edgar Sorongon and Pfc. Bobby Itang of the 36th Infantry Battalion. Wounded were SSgt. Jacob Hapon, Cpl. Saturnino Cafiada, Cpl. Rosito Salinas and Pfc. Marvin Jumawan.

Simbajon said the soldiers were on their way to Bislig from their outpost in Hinatuan at around 6 a.m. when their vehicle which was pulling a disabled truck struck the land mine.

About 15 NPA guerrillas in the vicinity then came out of their hiding places and fled.

"They were coming from the Pasaka detachment in Hinatuan towing another military truck when they were ambushed in Sitio Mataban in

Barangay San Vicente in Bislig," Simbajon said. Only the six soldiers were on the trucks, thus no one was able to give chase. Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

New Delhi bombings leave 61 dead

NEW DELHI—INVESTIGATORS DETAINED MORE than 20 people in raids on dozens of small hotels across the Indian capital Sunday as they hunted for suspects in three terrorist bombings that killed at least 61 people in two crowded markets, police said.

Police declared a state of emergency and closed all city markets after the Saturday evening blasts. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh denounced the apparently coordinated bombings, describing them as "dastardly acts of terrorism."

"These blasts have been timed to create disaffection during the festival season," he said in a brief television statement. "We shall defeat their nefarious designs and will not allow them to succeed. We are resolute in our commitment to fighting terrorism in all forms."

Police said they were looking for a man in his 20s who refused to buy a ticket on a passenger bus and got off in the Govindpuri neighborhood, leaving behind a large black bag. When some of the 40 passengers raised an alarm, the driver and bus conductor examined it and threw it out just as the blast occurred, injuring both of them.

Asked who was responsible for the attacks, Singh would only say "there are several clues." The Indian government faces opposition from dozens of militant groups—particularly Kashmiri separatists, some of whom also oppose the peace process between Pakistan and India.

Singh summoned the Cabinet for an emergency meeting later Sunday to discuss the attack, officials said.

The private Star News TV channel reported that more than 150 people had been detained in the raids, but that none of them had been arrested. However, a police spokesperson confirmed only 22 detainees, declining to give further details, citing the sensitive nature of the investigation.

A police officer with knowledge of the investigations said forensic experts were probing whether the lethal RDX explosive had been used in the attack, since witnesses said the biggest blast caused a huge ball

of fire that the explosive commonly creates. Some militant groups in Kashmir are known to have expertise in using RDX.

A chemical explosive had been ruled out because there was no pungent smell reported after the blast, the officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak publicly.

Officials avoided pointing fingers, but a leading antiterrorism expert said the timing and nature of the blasts appeared to indicate they were the work of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, the most feared militant group in Kashmir.

"It looks like Lashkar. They are the most active group here," said Vikram Sood, the former head of the Research and Analysis Wing, India's external intelligence agency.

The first explosion hit at 5:45 p.m. in New Delhi's main Paharganj market, killing 18 people and leaving behind bloodstained streets and mangled stalls of wood and twisted metal. Within minutes came an explosion at the popular Sarojini Nagar market, killing 43 people, and the bus blast in the Govindpuri neighborhood that injured nine.

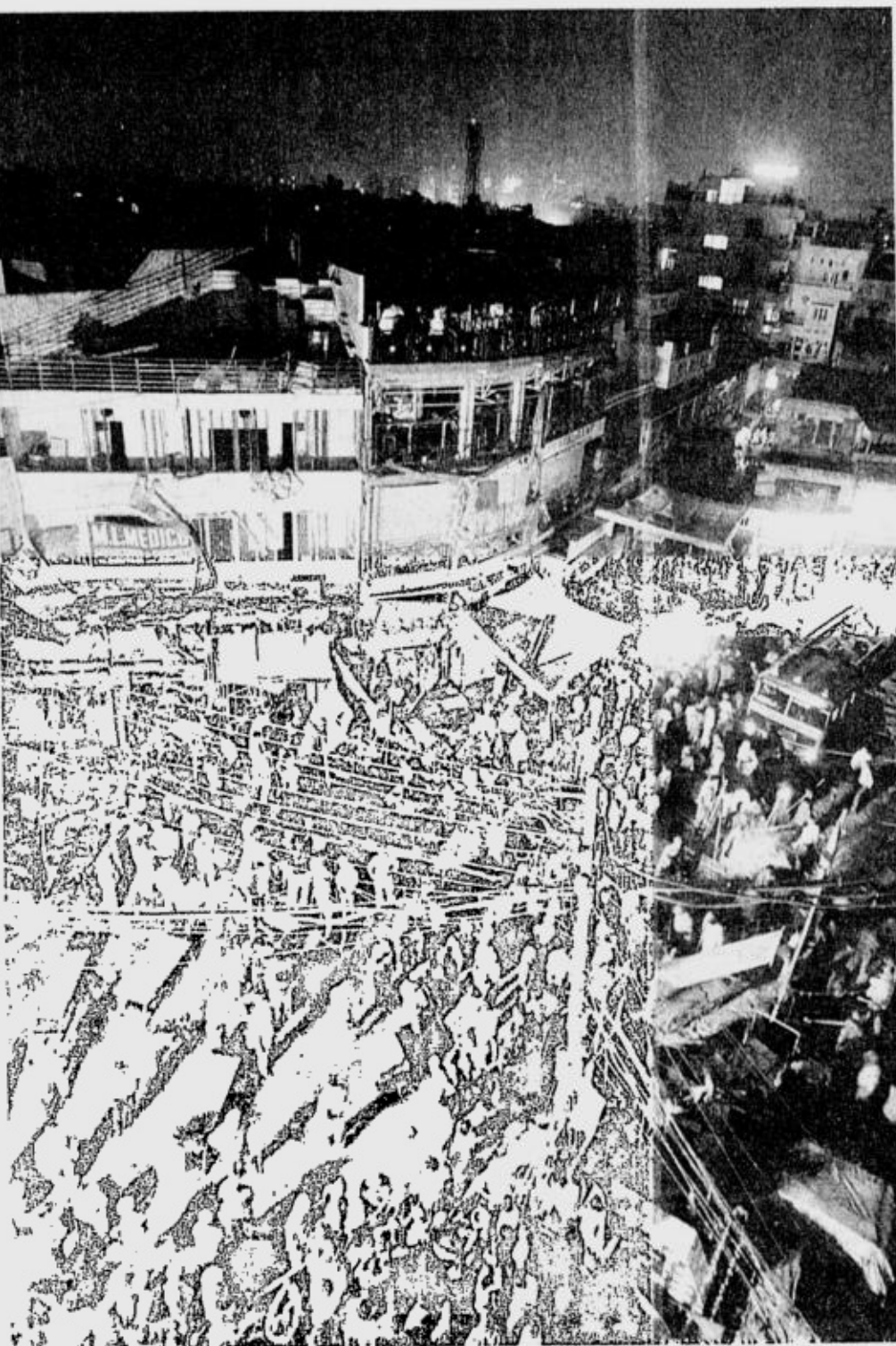
Police said the three blasts killed at least 61 people and wounded 188.

The attacks targeted the many people shopping just days before the festival of Diwali, a major Hindu holiday during which families exchange gifts, light candles and celebrate with fireworks. The markets where the blasts occurred often sell fireworks that are elaborate and potentially dangerous.

Delhi state's Chief Minister Sheila Dixit urged people to take precautions.

"Unless you do want to go shopping, please do not go to crowded areas. I am not saying there is a danger, but there could be a danger," she said.

Anil Gupta, who was sifting



through the wreckage of his jewelry store, said after the explosion "there were people everywhere—they were bleeding and screaming." Scattered around his feet were bracelets, necklaces and earrings.

The explosions erupted just

hours after India and Pakistan began talks on opening their heavily militarized border in disputed Kashmir to help get food, shelter and medical aid to victims of the Himalayan region's quake, which killed about 80,000 people, most in Pakistan.

AP

INDIAN police and residents work at the explosion site in New Delhi Oct. 29. Three bombs ripped through markets in Delhi, killing 61 people.

REUTERS

Attacks highlight India insurgencies

NEW DELHI—AS INDIAN POLICE BEGIN their investigation into the three fatal weekend bombings in New Delhi, their attention is expected to turn to the many ongoing insurgencies that plague India.

More than 44,000 people have died in Kashmir, the only Muslim majority state in mainly Hindu India, since 1989 when militancy grew roots in the Himalayan region disputed by arch rival Pakistan.

An estimated 50,000 people have also died in a variety of insurgencies in India's northeastern region.

Here is a snapshot of the main insurgent groups at large in India:

● **Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM):** Pan-Islamic militant group formed in 2000 by Muslim cleric Masood Azhar after his release a year earlier from prison in exchange for 155 passengers hijacked on an Indian aircraft. Aims to unite two zones of Kashmir with Pakistan.

● **Lashkar-e-Taiba:** Hardline rebel force which grew from the Pakistan-based religious organization the Markaz-ud-Dawa-wal-Irshad in 1989. Led by Hafiz Muhammad Saeed. One of the three largest guerrilla forces fighting Indian troops in Kashmir.

● **Hizbul Mujahidin:** Raised in 1989, the rebel force with the largest number of indigenous Kashmiri in its ranks. Advocates Kashmir's merger with Pakistan. Led by Syed Salaudin, based in Pakistan.

● **The United Liberation Front of Asom:** Formed in 1979 by Bhimakanta Buragohain to fight for an Assamese homeland within India. It is the most organized rebel group operating in India's far east where close to 30 militant groups are demanding secession or autonomy.

● **National Liberation Front of Tripura:** It came into existence in 1989 with aim of kicking Bangladeshi Muslim settlers out of the far eastern frontier state.

● **The Maoist Communist Center:** It draws its support from landless farmers and came into existence in 1967 with the objective of redefining laws for equitable distribution of wealth.

● **The People's War Group:** Another Maoist force, formed in 1980 by schoolteacher Kondapally Seetharamaiah in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, and also champions the cause of the landless. Together, the two Maoist groups have spread their fight to eight of India's 29 states.

● **The Babbar Khalsa International:** It is a Sikh rebel group which continues to battle for a homeland called Khalistan, or land of the pure, in the northern Indian state of Punjab.

AFP

Singaporeans snoop on maids with home cameras

SINGAPORE—SINGAPOREAN EMPLOYERS are planting high-tech security cameras at home to spy on their foreign maids, a report said Sunday.

Recent disturbing media coverage involving maids has prompted many homeowners to install domestic surveillance systems, some totaling as many as 10 cameras in a single apartment, the Sunday Times said.

"It gives me peace of mind. Still, I'd rather not find anything," real estate agent Kent Tan was quoted as saying.

He forked out 7,000 Singapore dollars (\$4,190) for the cameras and found his maid wearing his wife's clothes while at work.

More than 140,000 domestic workers, mainly from Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, work in Singapore. Cases of employers abusing their maids, who sometimes retaliate, frequently make the headlines.

Last week an Indonesian maid threw her employer's five-month-old son from their high-rise flat before leaping to her death.

AFP

Cheney's office at center of CIA leak indictment

WASHINGTON—THE INDICTMENT OF former top White House aide Lewis Libby in the CIA leak investigation will put Vice President Dick Cheney's office at the center of court proceedings, raising the specter of a politically damaging trial for the beleaguered Bush administration.

Libby, who resigned on Friday as Cheney's chief of staff after being indicted for obstructing justice, perjury and lying, is expected to make his first court appearance in the next week or so for an arraignment.

The indictment means the next stage of the case will play out in open court, in contrast to the secret two-year grand jury investigation directed by special counsel Patrick Fitzgerald into the leak of a covert CIA operative's identity.

Libby's indictment represented the first criminal charges arising from the investigation, and Fitzgerald said the probe would continue. One key figure still under scrutiny is President George W. Bush's top political adviser, Karl Rove, lawyers involved in the case said.

At the arraignment, Libby, 55, who faces up to 30 years in prison, is expected to plead not guilty, and the judge in the

case could set a trial date.

Lawyers involved in the case said Cheney himself and other top White House officials named in the indictment could be called as witnesses. A trial could expose the role played by Cheney's secretive office in seeking to discredit one of the administration's critics of the intelligence used before the Iraq war.

"It's a horrible situation for the vice president. Libby has been so close to Cheney," said one of the lawyers involved in the case. "If there's one thing that's got to be open, it is a criminal trial and the vice president is a key witness."

Another lawyer said it is clear from the indictment that any trial would have to delve into the private conversations between Cheney and Libby about the CIA operative, Valerie Plame, and her diplomat husband, Joseph Wilson. He had challenged the administration's prewar intelligence on Iraq.

The prosecutors will seek to prove that Libby's statements are lies by going through a very detailed chronology of the events that occurred in the vice president's office, including conversations with Ch-



CHENEY

REUTERS

eney, one of the lawyers said.

"It has the potential to be politically damaging," the lawyer said. "What exactly were they doing in that office in their discussions about Wilson?"

According to the indictment, Libby learned from Cheney himself on June 12, 2003, that Wilson's wife worked in the

CIA's counterproliferation division. The White House is already reeling from the mounting US death toll from the Iraq war, the bungled response to Hurricane Katrina and from the withdrawal of US Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers, under fire from Bush's conservative power base.

The charges accused Libby of lying to FBI agents who interviewed him on Oct. 14, 2003, and Nov. 26, 2003, committing perjury while testifying under oath to the grand jury twice in March 2004, and engaging in obstruction of justice by impeding the grand jury's investigation.

"These appear to be very solid charges based on a very thorough investigation," former federal prosecutor Robert Mintz said in a statement. He said Libby's statements appear to be contradicted by testimony of senior administration officials.

Libby's lawyer, Joseph Tate, promised a vigorous defense.

"As lawyers, we recognize that a person's recollection of events will not always match those of other people, particularly when they are asked to testify months after the events occurred," Tate said.

Reuters

Revamped US-Japan alliance means force cuts in Okinawa

By Jim Mannion

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States and Japan agreed Saturday to sharply cut US forces in Okinawa, deploy a powerful missile defense radar in Japan and tighten army ties in a major realignment of the main US military alliance in Asia.

The United States will move 7,000 marines from Okinawa to Guam, reducing its force on the island to 11,000, Japanese defense chief Yoshinori Ohno said. US officials said they hope to accomplish the move within six years.

Japan, in turn, committed to an expansion in the roles and missions of its military both in the defense of Japan and in international missions that do not in-

volve the use of force.

"I believe we are in fact opening a new era," Ohno said at a news conference here with US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura.

"We are now talking about joint activities in various areas between Japan and the United States in order to improve the peace and security around the world," he said.

The ministers endorsed a 14-page document entitled "US-Japan Alliance: Transformation and Realignment for the Future" that lays out broad plans for revamping the alliance. They agreed to work out implementation of the plans by March.

"Change is always

Rumsfeld said. "The task now is to see to the implementation in a way that is satisfactory from everyone's standpoint."

US defense officials said this is one of the biggest changes in the defense relationship between the two countries since the end of World War II.

It comes amid tensions with North Korea over its nuclear weapons programs and growing concern over China's military buildup that the Pentagon has said threatens the military balance in the region.

The document said the two countries "reemphasized the persistent challenges in the Asia-Pacific region, including the need to pay attention to

the modernization of military capabilities in the region."

Japan agreed to intensified cooperation in missile defense, including the deployment on its territory of an X-band radar, a powerful radar used to track and target intercontinental ballistic missile warheads in space.

The US military and the Japanese Self-Defense Forces also plan to develop a "common operational picture" with US and Japanese command centers co-located at Yokota Air Base in Japan, it said.

Close and continuous coordination at every level is "essential to dissuade destabilizing military build-ups, to deter aggression and to respond to diverse security challenges," the report said.

The two countries agreed on the need to intensify bilateral contingency planning and include Japan's civilian agencies and local authorities in the process.

They also agreed to share real-time intelligence, expand joint training and share facilities both inside and outside Japan.

Japan will strengthen its military to address "new threats and diverse contingencies such as ballistic missile attacks, attacks by guerrilla and special forces and invasion of remote islands," the document said.

The plans also call for a series of force realignments beyond Okinawa, including the eventual relocation of the headquarters of the US Army's 1 Corps from Fort Lewis, Washington to Japan, US

officials said.

The US Army, meanwhile, will convert its command structure in Japan into a deployable joint task force headquarters, which could be co-located with a Japanese defense forces "central readiness force command" at Camp Zama.

The Japanese air defense command would be co-located with the US air defense command at Yokota Air Base. A US carrier air wing will be moved from Atsugi Naval Air Station to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

The US Navy announced this week that a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier will be stationed in Japan for the first time in 2008, when the USS Kitty Hawk returns to the United States for decommissioning.

AFP

More rebel attacks after car bomb blast kills 30 in Iraq

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—TWO MEN IN AN oil tanker truck, a shop keeper, two construction workers and a government employee were the victims of new insurgent attacks Saturday, one day after militants killed 30 people with a car bomb in a Shiite farming village.

The surge in violence occurred as Iraqi political blocs unveiled their lists of candidates for Dec. 15 parliamentary elections, which the United States and its coalition partners hope will help restore enough stability that they can begin sending home their forces next year.

On Saturday morning, a roadside bomb destroyed one of several oil tanker trucks driving on a main road in south Baghdad, sending a fireball up over the area and killing the two men inside, said police Capt. Ibrahim Abdul-Ridha. Four civilian passers-by were wounded.

Three separate drive-by shootings in the capital killed two construction workers and wounded three; seriously wounded a shopkeeper in the Dora district; and hit a car carrying Cabinet adviser Ghalib Abdul Mahdi to work, wounding him and killing his driver, police said.

In Samarra, 95 km north of Baghdad, a roadside bomb killed a farmer on his tractor and seriously wounded two other civilians, said police Capt. Laith Mohammed.

On Friday night, the corpses of three handcuffed and blindfolded Iraqis were found in Baghdad, and police said an Iraqi soldier and the brother of a policeman were gunned down.

A new report by the US Pentagon estimat-

ed that 26,000 Iraqis have been killed or wounded by insurgents since Jan. 1, 2004. In the most recent period, from Aug. 29 to Sept. 16, an estimated 64 Iraqis became casualties each day, the report indicated. A recent Associated Press count found that at least 3,870 Iraqis have died in the last six months.

Last week, a US military spokesperson said that as many as 30,000 Iraqis may have died during the war, which began with the US invasion in March 2003. But independent analysts say that figure could be much higher, with estimates ranging from at least 30,000 to as high as 100,000 or more.

At least 2,015 members of the US military also have died since the start of the Iraq war, according to an AP count, including three Army soldiers who were killed on Saturday by a land mine and a roadside bomb in two separate attacks.

Also Saturday, a bomb hidden in a truck loaded with dates exploded in the center of the Shiite farming village of Huweder, about 72 km northeast of Baghdad, killing 30 people and injuring at least 45.

The bomb exploded as villagers were heading to the mosque for prayers or outdoors in the cool evening breeze to

break the daylong fast they observe during the holy month of Ramadan.

"It felt as if the earth was shaking underneath our feet," said Hussein Mouwaffaq, whose brother Qahtan was killed in the blast. "The street was strewn with dates. Many people were killed and injured."

Police Lt. Ahmed Abdul Wahab, who gave the casualty figure, said the number of deaths could increase because several survivors were critically wounded. The village is in a religiously mixed area plagued by suicide attacks, roadside bombs and armed assaults on police checkpoints.

Shiite civilians are frequent targets of Sunni extremists, including Iraq's most feared terror group, al-Qaida in Iraq, which considers members of the majority religious community to be heretics and collaborators with US-led forces. Iraq's security services are staffed mainly by Shiites and Kurds.

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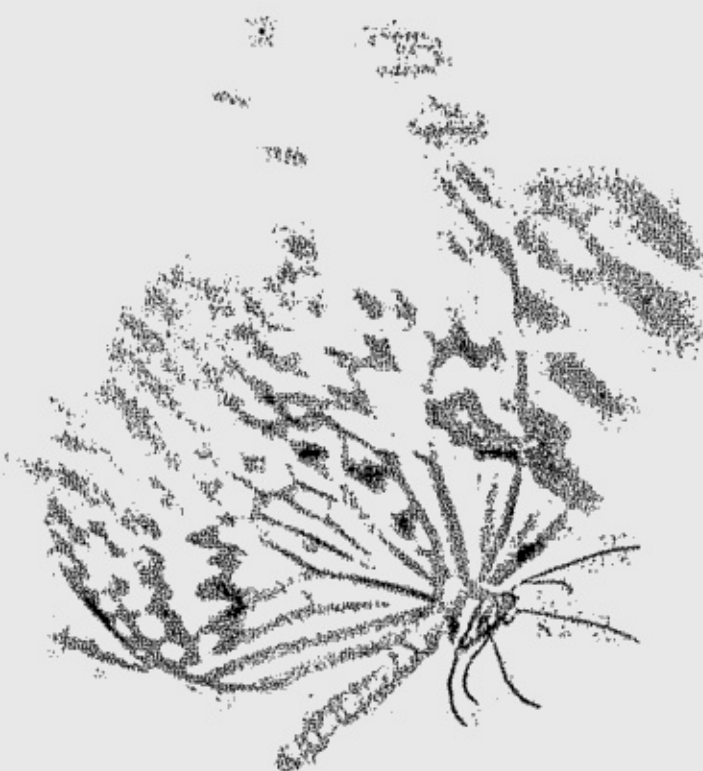
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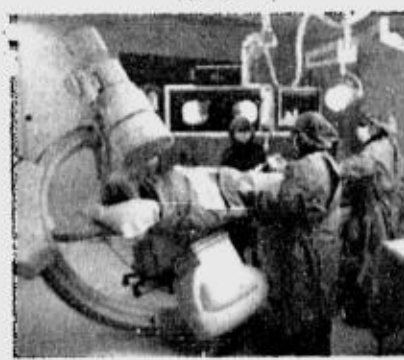
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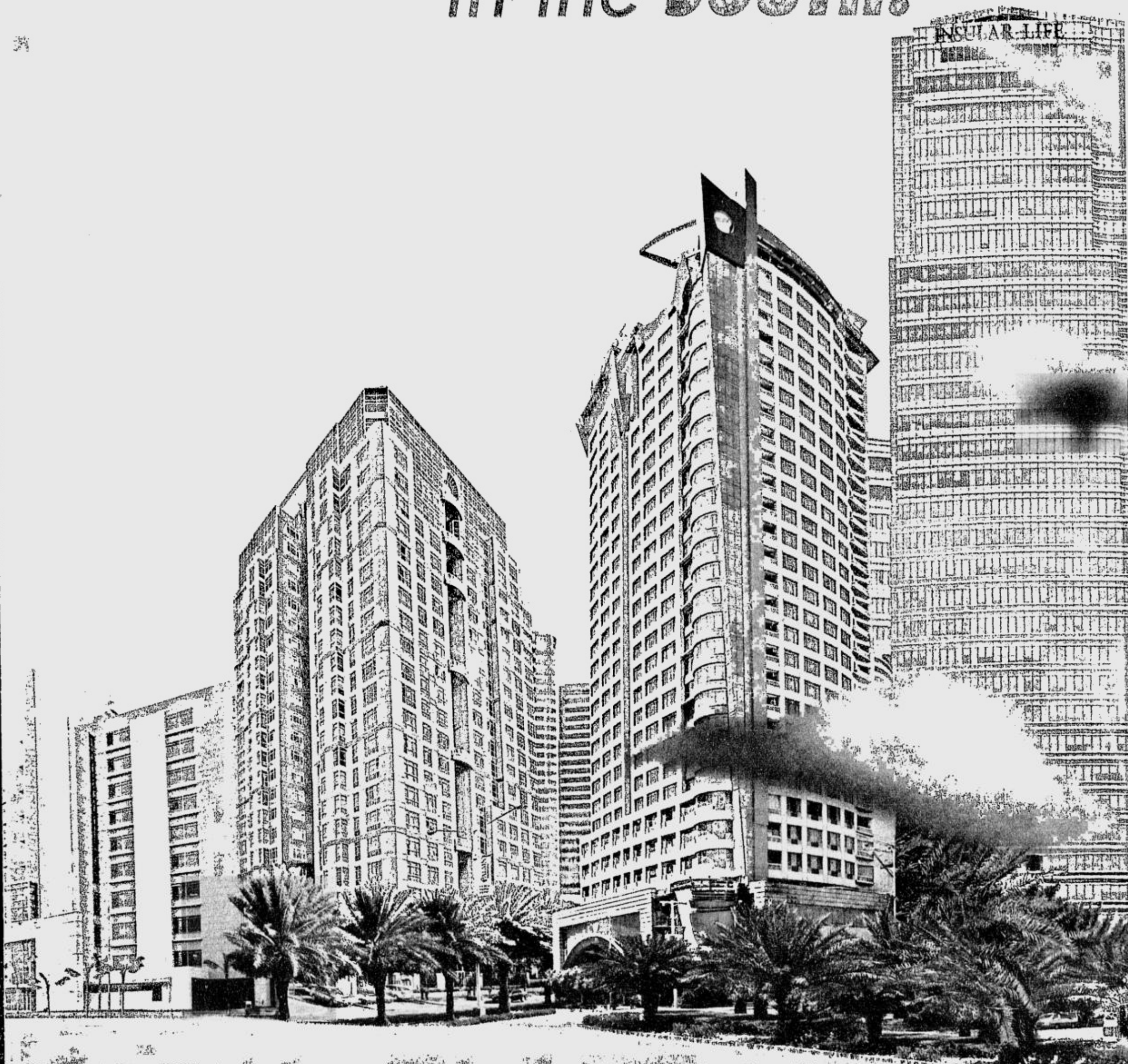


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The disappeared

IT IS NOT ONLY LEFTIST ACTIVISTS WHO HAVE disappeared in increasing numbers; key officials or former officials of the Arroyo administration have also become scarce, albeit voluntarily. The most damning disappearance, of course, has been that of former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. Every day he continues to be missing, the administration sinks an inch deeper into its crisis of legitimacy.

But another former government executive is giving Garcillano a run for his money.

EDITORIAL Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante was agriculture undersecretary for finance and administration from 2001 until after last year's elections. Today, he is the fourth-highest official in Rotary International; he is a member of the RI board of directors and treasurer of the worldwide humanitarian organization. In fact, he is the most senior Filipino Rotarian since Mat Caparas became the first Filipino president of Rotary International two decades ago. By all accounts he should be recognized for his achievement, and for the honor his elected position brings to a country of international achievers.

But instead he is almost a fugitive in his own country. Avoiding journalists and government investigators, he prefers to issue statements through a lawyer. He hosts an international conference of Rotarians in one of the country's leading hotels, but when members of the Senate staff arrive to serve him a subpoena, he is suddenly nowhere to be found. And last week, on the very day the Senate committee on agriculture resumed its investigation into the alleged election-related misuse of hundreds of millions in fertilizer funds, Bolante skipped town.

Bolante's deliberate elusiveness (he also "missed" the Oct. 6 hearing) may not be criminal, but it is certainly un-Rotarian.

The first spoke of Rotary's Four-Way Test, its famous wheel of guide questions, is about truth-telling: "Is it the truth?" Bolante's continuing and increasingly elaborate refusal to testify about the fertilizer funds, which he was chiefly responsible for when he was agriculture undersecretary, can only mean that he is failing the most fundamental Rotary principle of all.

He may wish, at his own legal peril, to ignore the Senate summons; but if he cannot answer the first Rotary test, he must at least do the right thing by his fellow Rotarians: resign from his directorship in the RI Board.

Rotary has hundreds of thousands of dedicated members around the world; it has done many good deeds, including daring to reimagine a world without polio. It would be a shame if its fourth-highest official continues to place personal considerations above that of the organization's interests.

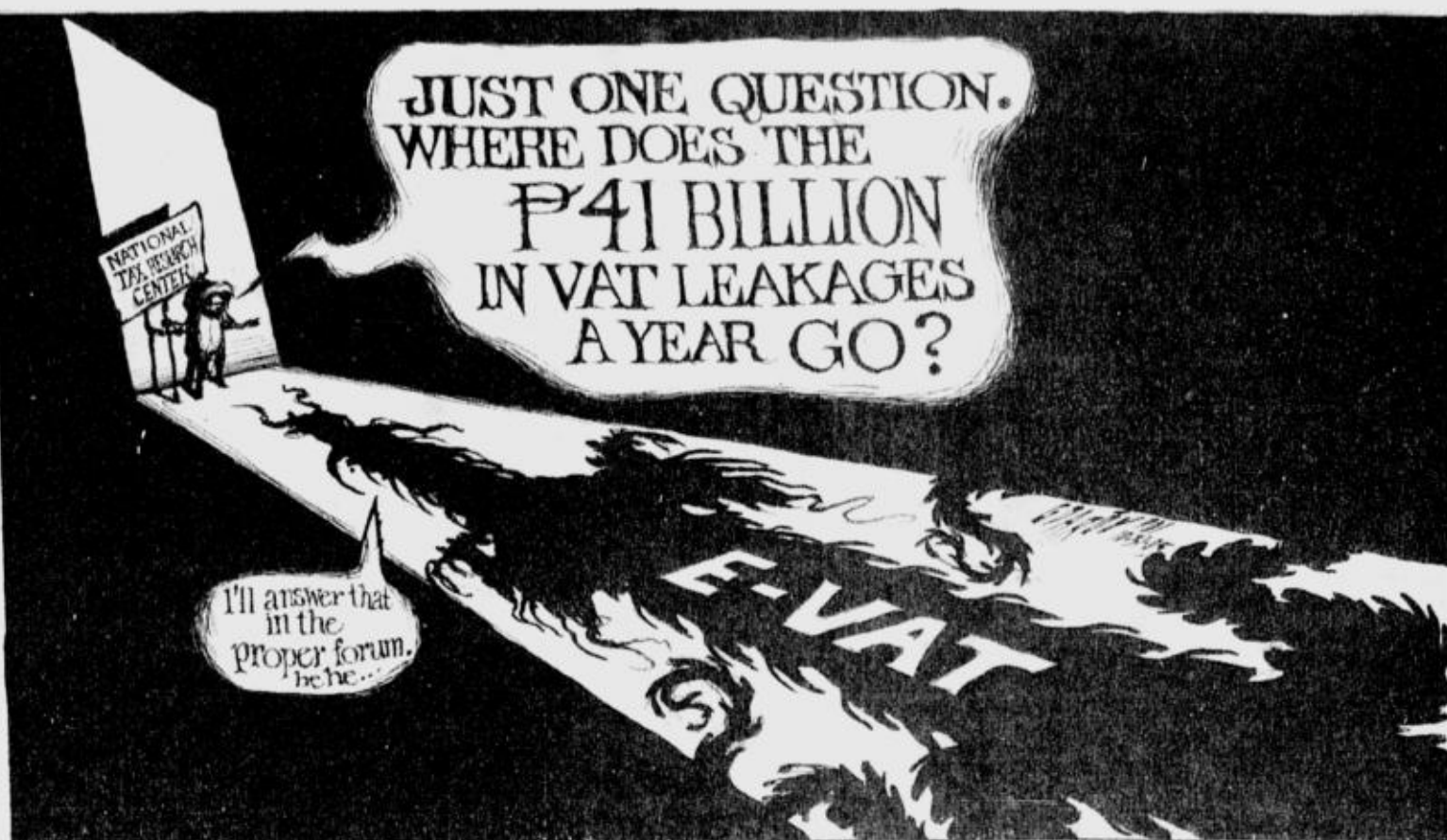
Then again, this is not the first time that the good name of Rotary has been misappropriated during the Arroyo presidency. Some government positions have been filled by appointees whose main recommendation for the job was membership in the same small Rotary club First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo belongs to. This exclusivist strain in patronage politics has colored the very name of the organization itself; for some critics of the administration, "Rotary" now connotes a new kind of cronyism.

This is most unfortunate and, if we read Bolante's evasive maneuvers correctly, is bound to get worse. Last week, his lawyer, Antonio Zulueta, hinted at their strategy. "He's busy in the Philippines, but for the past 14 or 15 months, he's been out of the country most of the time." That means we can expect Bolante to spend much of the rest of his term as director, which ends next year, blissfully out of the country, attending to Rotary International business.

In other words, Rotary will be used as an excuse to avoid testifying in the Senate or other venues. How can that possibly be good for the organization?

The issue facing Bolante is not a trivial one. The Commission on Audit has found that there is evidence to support the contention that part of the fertilizer funds was diverted to the Arroyo presidential campaign. "It was a well-planned project involving national and local officials and [it was] the DA itself, with its nationwide machinery, which ensured easy distribution throughout the country," a COA source told the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism.

The question for Bolante: Is this true?



Filipino mythological Halloween monsters

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz



TODAY BEING HALLOWEEN AND TOMORROW All Saints' Day, let's talk about the monsters from the other world. (There are already many monsters in this world and we talk about them every day.)

It is easy to see the dismay of many Capizeños over the "Aswang Festival," which was cooked up by their officials to attract tourists. Capiz is generally known as the home of aswangs, the generic name for a species of underworld denizens; just as some towns in Bicol were once known for the *bailarinas*, or taxi dancers, that they exported to Metro Manila cabarets; and just as the Philippines is known in the whole world as the land of the DH, or domestic helper. (In Hong Kong, the word Filipina has become synonymous with DH. When a Chinese housewife tells a friend that she has a DH from the Philippines, she says "I have a Filipina.") Indeed, there are places in the Philippines where people look at househelp or neighbors coming from Capiz with suspicion and dread.

The province's officials thought of turning this notion into cash by holding the "Aswang Festival" to attract tourists, just as the Ati-Atihan attracts tourists to Kalibo, and the Moriones Festival attracts tourists to Marinduque.

But why should we bolster this wrong perception of Capizeños with this festival, the objectors complained. Capiz is the home province of President Manuel Roxas and his son, the late Sen. Gerry Roxas, and his grandson, Sen. Mar Roxas (presidential timber all). It is also known for its delicious seafood, why choose the aswangs instead to promote the province, they asked. Good question.

Not only that, this exploitation promotes the "idiotization" of the Filipinos, the critics added. Would you believe that in this modern day and age of space ships, computers and cell phones, there are still adult Filipinos who are terrorized by aswangs?

Not so long ago, squatter colonies in Metro Manila were terrorized by rumors of *manananggals* ("one that separates"), the most common aswang from Capiz, in their midst. The *manananggal* is said to be a human with bat

wings, whose upper torso separates at the waist from the rest of its body and flies away at night to hunt for victims. It must return and reattach itself before daybreak, or else it would never be whole again. The way to combat this monster is to look for its lower torso—while the upper torso is away—and put garlic and salt on it. The upper torso will never be able to reattach itself again. A joke is that Capizeños don't have to ride planes; they just fly by themselves.)

What triggered the spread of this type of "terror" was the broadcasting of the "manananggal invasion" in the newscasts of the two leading TV networks that are competing for the top viewership ratings, thus giving the story a patina of truth. (They also do stories on UFO sightings, apparitions, "miracles," freaks and—especially in this season—ghosts and paranormal occurrences. All for the purpose of achieving higher ratings.)

This media war boosts the superstitious beliefs and "idiotization" of Filipinos, especially those in poor communities, critics say. Shouldn't the leading networks be more responsible?

Really, the aswang is only a product of the imagination of our forefathers, who used it to discipline children and scare adults. In poor communities, especially in rural areas, during moonlit nights, people regale one another with tales of encounters with aswangs—some of them "personal experiences," *kuno*, to give the tales authenticity. That's why some children grow up believing in the existence of aswangs.

But the aswangs are really nothing more than the counterparts of the pumpkins, ghosts, ghouls, witches and black cats with which we adorn our front yards during Halloween. They

are, however, our very own indigenous monsters.

I've already described the *manananggal*. There is also the *kapre*, a giant who sits on top of a tree, smoking a big cigar. There is the *tikbalang*, the half-horse-half-man creature probably inspired by the unicorn. There is the *dwende*, the Filipino counterpart of the dwarf of the Western world. Toadstools and mushrooms are supposed to be their homes.

The *nuno sa punso* (literally, "old man on the mound") is an old dwarf whom you can't see but whose presence is indicated by the mounds of earth (termite hills, really) in backyards and woods. You have to give these mounds a wide berth and ask the "old man" permission to walk through it, for if you as much as brush against one of them, the old man will get angry and cast a spell on you to make you sick or bring you bad luck.

The *tiyanak* is also a dwarf (a joke says there's one in the Malacañang grounds), but it looks like a baby or a small child. It misleads passersby by crying like a baby. The victim looks for the baby, following its cries, and is led deeper and deeper into the woods until he is lost. It is easy to break its spell. Simply wear your shirt inside out, and you can find your way out of the woods.

The aswang takes many forms. It can take the form of a huge pig or a big dog rooting under a house where there is a pregnant woman. It supposedly eats the baby inside the mother's womb. The weapon against an aswang is the *buntot-page* (the barbed tail of a sting ray or manta ray). If it is hit by the *buntot-page*, it goes back to its human form.

There is an aswang that climbs up the thatched roofs of dwellings, lowers a thread, through a hole of the roof, to the mouth of a sleeping human below, and sends a potion down the string to his mouth. The victim never wakes up again. The fear of this aswang prompts many children and adults to sleep face down, so the aswang can't gain access to their mouths.

But remember, none of these mythological monsters is true.

Day of the dead

THERE'S THE RUB

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and deeply conservative. Those were the days, Roco recalled, when you could truly hold your head high and be proud to be Filipino.

It is no small irony that the one person who brought all this crashing to the ground was the same one who said, "This country will be great again." That was Marcos, and he said that in his inaugural address when he became president for the first time in 1966, a stirring speech that became a staple in oratorical contests. Although I vaguely remember at the time some debate about what Marcos meant. Was he suggesting that we had been great once but had fallen into decline for some time? When were we ever great and when did we fall into a stupor? The consensus though was that Marcos was referring to the "golden age" of Rizal et al. when he spoke of greatness, which was what we had presumably lost over the decades and which he proposed to resurrect. He did nothing of the kind. A couple of decades of his rule, 14 years of them dictatorial, the country not only did not become great again, it became thoroughly wretched.

How widely the gap yawns between then and now. Well, a friend of mine put it this way: In the 1960s, rich Filipinos had "amahs" or Chinese maids. Today, ordinary Chinese have *chimaays* or Filipino maids. You know there's something wrong somewhere when the young man who topped the national medical board exam prefers to work in New York as a nurse. Indeed, you know there's something wrong somewhere when you read that 6,000 Filipino doctors are going back to school to study nursing to work abroad. Then, there were no heights to which we would soar, today there are no lows to which we would stoop.

I remember that several irate readers, particularly from abroad, wrote me at one point to complain about why I was denigrating nurses and maids. That was in reaction to several columns where I asked why our national ambition had narrowed down to wanting to become the "toilet bowl cleaners of the world." What's wrong with being a maid, a nurse, or for that matter, a toilet bowl cleaner, they asked. Those were respectable jobs, better than stealing. I agree: Those are respectable jobs, and better than being a fake president and stealing. So are being a janitor, a postal clerk, a watch-your-car boy: Those are respectable jobs and better than prostituting, the literal and congressional variety.

I am not denigrating those jobs. What I am denigrating with absolute ferocity is why that should become the sum of our national goal. Have we gotten so miserable we are content to stop being doctors and dream only of earning dollars by being nurses? Have we gotten so desperate we have stopped dreaming of becoming novelists and teachers and statesmen and want only to become servants, lackeys of America, and the doormat of the world?

It gets worse. Then we said we could not eat pride when forced to succumb to coercions like the postwar "parity rights." Today, we say we cannot eat sovereignty, which was what Richard Gordon said when he defended the US bases to the death, only to demand to reap the fruits of sovereignty after Subic Base was converted to the SBMA. Today, we say we cannot eat honesty, which was what everyone at least thought, if not said, when GMA vowed she would not run again, and did. Indeed, today, we say we cannot eat truth and integrity and democracy, which was what that Filipino in America said when he wrote: "GMA cheated in the elections, so what?"

No wonder this country is suffering from kwashiorkor, characterized in our case by the bloating of the brain rather than the belly. We cannot eat edible things.

When we go to the cemeteries today, we may want to pause to recall the short and unhappy life of Juan de la Cruz.

Snap election?

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.



THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE 1973 CONSTITUTION which said that you could have a snap election for the presidency during the term of a sitting president. Yet we had it, and with the full blessing of the Supreme Court. How did it happen?

There is nothing in the 1987 Constitution which says we can have a snap election during the term of a sitting president, even if the legitimacy of the sitting president should be under fire. Can we have it nonetheless, and with the full blessing of the Supreme Court? Does the silence of the Constitution mean consent?

It should be instructive to review how the 1986 election happened.

It may be recalled that in 1985, President Ferdinand Marcos, probably exasperated by the continuing attacks coming from the opposition, issued a dare. He was willing to submit himself to a snap election before the end of his term. Responding to that dare, the Batasang Pambansa enacted BP 883 calling for special national elections on Feb. 7, 1986 for the offices of president and vice president of the Philippines.

As would be expected, petitions, 11 of them, were filed before the Supreme Court, asking that BP 883 be declared unconstitutional.

On Jan. 7, 1986, seven justices—Chief Justice Ramon Aquino, Justices Claudio Teehankee, Hermogenes Concepcion Jr., Vicente Abad Santos, Efren Plana, Venicio Escolin and Lorenzo Relova—voted to dismiss the petitions. Former Chief Justice Enrique Fernando and former Sen. Ambrosio Padilla, acting as *amici curiae*, both urged the Supreme Court not to prevent the people from expressing their sovereign will.

For their part, five justices—Hugo Gutierrez Jr., B.S. de la Fuente, Serafin Cuevas, Nestor B. Alampay and Lino M. Patajo—voted to declare BP 883 unconstitutional.

Under the 1973 Constitution, eight votes were needed to declare a law unconstitutional. Thus, the 7-5 vote was not enough to nullify BP 883 and the election was allowed to proceed. Can something similar happen again today?

While indeed neither the 1973 Constitution nor the 1987 Constitution has a provision on mid-term presidential election, there were factors obtaining in 1986 which do not exist today.

The first important factor, of course, was that President Marcos had expressed his willingness to resign. His resignation, however, was prospective and conditional. He said that his resignation would take effect only if he should lose in a snap election. Was that a valid resignation? As Justice Plana put it, "Not being prohibited, a presidential resignation *in futuro* is allowed."

The glaring fact today is that the incumbent President has no desire whatsoever to resign, not now or in some future date.

The second glaring difference is that in 1986 there was no incumbent vice president. Today, we have Vice President Noli de Castro waiting to step in should a vacancy occur by resignation. And he himself has no desire to resign. Constitutionally, the presidency is his should Ms Arroyo resign.

Why was there no vice president in 1986? As former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez pointed out as *amicus curiae*, the 1984 constitutional amendment which had restored the Office of the Vice President did not make such restoration immediately effective. It would take effect only after the end of the term of the incumbent president on June 30, 1987. Pelaez had helped in the drafting of the 1984 amendment. He said that Marcos was "allergic to vice presidents."

A third glaring difference is that in 1986 the legislature was in favor of a snap election. They passed BP 883. Today, while I have my doubts whether the Senate would favor a snap election, I

have no doubt whatsoever that the supporters of Ms Arroyo, who hold a majority in the House of Representatives, will not risk losing their heroine and patroness.

In 1986, therefore, there was an agreement between the executive and legislative departments. Also, some of the petitions against BP 883 were expressly withdrawn or impliedly abandoned. Arturo Tolentino himself, the foremost opponent of BP 883 put aside his "personal objections" and accepted the KBL's nomination as vice-presidential candidate to run with Mr. Marcos.

The united opposition likewise realized the urgency of obtaining a popular mandate and rallied behind the candidacy of Cory C. Aquino.

In the face of all these, what was the Supreme Court to do? As Justice Teehankee put it: "The real issue at bar has thus veered from the purely justiciable issue of the questioned constitutionality of the Act due to the lack of an actual vacancy in the Office of [the] President and transferred itself into a political question that can only be truly decided by the people in their sovereign capacity in a fair, clean and honest election."

Thus the stage was set for the event which culminated in the catapulting of Aquino to the presidency.

We are far from having a similar scenario today. The Supreme Court would be hard put justifying a snap election today by recourse to the political question doctrine.

There is another factor yet, which the advocates of a snap election will have to confront. If it should happen, who would be their candidate? They would have to defuse a ticking fragmentation bomb. In 1985-1986, I was a member of the Convenor Group, later dubbed as the Council of Trent, which worked to find a suitable candidate to run against President Marcos. We scoured the field for a suitable candidate, but none of the known political figures in the opposition could get the united support of the various segments of the opposition. It was only Cory Aquino who could get that support.

Who among the would-be-presidents can command that kind of unified support today? No one.

Fixing relocation sites

INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE NORTHRAIL PROJECT, THE government's premiere infrastructure work, is in trouble, not only in the Senate and the courts, but also on the ground. In Bulacan, the government is struggling to relocate another 11,000 poor families so that work on the railroad can begin.

Six Bulacan mayors said on Oct. 14 that the government's relocation program was "a miracle from heaven." The next day, however, Bishop Jose F. Oliveros of Diocese of Malolos and his Commission on Service head, Fr. Dennis Espejo, wrote in an open letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo: "I have seen and our field workers have confirmed that most of the relocation sites are far from adequate. They do not have enough water supply, normal electricity supply, adequate drainage and sewerage system, among others; in sum, these relocation sites are not yet habitable and not fit for habitation." The bishop asked the government for a moratorium on all relocation activities until the resettlement areas would be ready.

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

Vice President Noli de Castro believes the relocation will be finished by November. More likely, resettlement won't be finished even by the end of the year. According to the records of the diocese, as of Oct. 7, there were 11,557 families on the railroad right-of-way still to be relocated. And there are many signs that opposition to the present resettlement is stiffening. To meet deadlines, the government may have to use force to put people off the tracks. That's a recipe for violence which no one wants.

How is it that a well-funded infrastructure project, which all sides see as a national priority, ends in this stalemate? This is not the first case, unfortunately. Other well-funded and important projects crossed the same sad end before: the R-10 road along the North Harbor, going into Navotas; the extension of the C-5 to Novaliches; the cleaning of *esteros*; the rehabilitation of the Pasig River; the commercial zone of the National Government Center. Surely there were many others. All came to grief because the government and the urban poor people failed to agree on the terms of development and of relocation.

Government efforts at resettlements have improved over the years, but so, too, have people's expectations and their awareness of the human rights guaranteed them in law. And government hasn't been willing to listen to people's suggestions on the nature of the projects. Neither has it been willing to give time, interest and money needed for decent relocation.

In many cases, the people's suggestions might not have been so relevant. In the NorthRail project, for example, people have suggestions on where the tracks should go, if not along the old right-of-way. But in other projects (e.g., the Pasig River rehabilitation and the NGC Economic Zone), their suggestions made sense, and those projects would have been more successful if the suggestions had been followed.

In matters of relocation, government hasn't been willing to spend the money needed to do a good job. It has tried to do it on the cheap, and that hasn't worked. Government can afford decent relocation if it makes the costs of relocation part of the foreign loans that fund the projects. It usually refuses to do that because using the loans requires following expensive international standards of relocation. Government simply doesn't want to spend such amounts of money for relocating poor people, even if the poor will in time repay much of it. Thus, relocation efforts fall far short of satisfying people. The attempts to economize lead to people's resistance, which in turn causes long and costly delays. The daily fines for not using foreign loan money on time are staggering.

To what extent do our anti-poor biases influence government decision-making when it comes to resettling poor people?

It might be possible, even without foreign money, to make resettlement attractive if certain conditions were present. If government officials were aware of past failures and successes, they might have learned better ways of operating. They might have learned that half the battle is consulting with the people affected and listening to their suggestions. People will cooperate because eventually they have to repay whatever money is spent on them, and they know their insecure situation along the tracks, or *esteros* or roads is not something good to bequeath to their children. A notable example of cooperation was cobbled up in the Tondo Foreshore Project under President Ferdinand Marcos: the government and the Zone One Tondo Organization agreed on a nearby relocation site and its upgrading in return for freeing large areas of land for harbor development. There have been few similar examples since.

We must hold on to both ends of the problem: government must deal with project funders, proponents and affected poor families with equal seriousness. Jesus told the Pharisees that they observed lesser laws and forgot the love of God and neighbor. "You should have done these, but not overlooking the others." (Lk 43:42)

When funds are available, they should not be poured into the same tainted channels as in the past. Money put into a corrupt system causes greater corruption. Not all officials are corrupt, not by a long shot, but the corrupt patterns in resettlement land purchase, the use of crony developers, and sky-high costs of everything have occurred regularly since at least the Carmona resettlement project of 1969-1970. A recent series of articles by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism gives several examples of land purchased for resettlement on the NorthRail at prices far above market values.

According to the PCIJ, there have also been reported cases of grossly overvalued lands bought by the NHA [National Housing Authority] for the resettlement sites. One such case involves a 7.6-hectare lot in Bignay, Valenzuela, which was sold at P2,000 per square meter or at a staggering amount of P140 million. The zonal value of property in the area is only P1,000 to P1,500 per sq m. The land title shows that the seller had bought the property from the Bank of the Philippine Islands in August 2004 for only P30 million.

We need another system of fiscal management. We need trained, experienced civil servants to do the actual planning. Have the ranking civil servants in the housing agencies studied architecture, urban planning or resettlement work? Have they traveled to learn how things are done in other countries or how other countries handle their resettlement financing? To be truthful, the trained and capable civil servants with years of experience are not the decision-makers.

It may be wise to heed Bishop Oliveros' suggestion to halt the demolition and fix the relocation sites first. It will probably be the easiest and, paradoxically, the quickest solution.

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates.

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'Kabilin dili gub-on'

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II



BREEZING THROUGH BACLAYON, BOHOL, ONE couldn't help but notice these words in *Binisaya* (meaning "heritage is not meant to be destroyed"), on the walls of vintage houses of the town. When the Bohol circumferential highway was being widened, the vintage houses faced demolition, until Bacayon residents and Bohol's heritage-conscious civic inhabitants mounted a campaign to save the historic houses. In the end, government officials relented.

The heritage spirit of many Boholanos is something that is contagious. And this sense of theirs is not limited to the realm of history. Even the Loboc river is regularly cleared of flotsam, its only bane, the onset of the rainy season at which time the emerald waters turn into murky chocolate. Shunning the overcrowdedness and underdevelopment of Boracay, many tourism roads now lead to Bohol because of its unique combination of leisure, heritage and ecotourism.

But the Bacayon struggle only highlighted the irony that in this country, it is government itself that is too often the primary agent of heritage destruction. Many of our local leaders still operate on the proposition that heritage and development are antinomic poles. This is an archaic thinking that certainly has placed our country several leagues behind our progressive neighbors, such as Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, where heritage buildings are preserved. Tour guides proudly point out that such buildings boost the tourism industry and economy with substantial capital and investments—that is aside, of course, from giving their people a soul.

Several years after we have institutionalized culture and the arts in government, our heritage laws still do not have the teeth to protect whatever is left of our patrimony. Even a non-lawyer can easily see the loopholes in many of our heritage laws. Perhaps, that is one reason why our government culture bodies are generally passive when it comes to preserving our heritage. But the limita-

tion can certainly be transcended. I am not aware if there is active lobbying, for instance, being done by these bodies to craft a heritage law that would firmly safeguard historical structures and, most importantly, supersede the inutile heritage laws we have.

At present, government culture bodies are not line agencies, hence, they do not extend their presence to the provinces. Hence, what we have is a Manila-centric heritage advocacy that too often does not have the wherewithal to be effective nationwide.

Take, for instance, the National Museum: until now it has no mandate for repatriation. In the United States, the repatriation of indigenous artifacts, including human skeletal remains, has long been a normative, which many Native American communities have availed themselves of. Although our National Museum initiated, in an unprecedented move a few years back, the repatriation of the Kabayan mummies of Benguet, it places a very low premium on empowering local peoples in organizing community-based museums, which is now the trend in many other places.

Advocacy is another matter. When local civic heritage organizations and private citizens filed a court case against Cagayan de Oro Mayor Vicente Emano to stop the sale of the pre-World War II city hall, nary a word of support was heard from the National Historical Institute. The passiveness and inaction are misconstrued in the provinces as an indication of the indifference of our national culture agencies to local sentiments and assertions. As a result, local

heritage advocacies are seldom given support by the national agencies, whose focus remains very limited to what is going on in Manila and Luzon. We are still in the era of cultural elitism.

But there is an oblique kind of heritage destruction, which occurs when our national heritage bodies engage in politics, from which they and their work should be shielded. A recent news item, for instance, caught the attention of many Mindanao heritage advocates when the NHI officially installed a historical marker at the Macaraeg-Macapagal Ancestral House in Timog, Iligan City. With many historical sites in Mindanao still unrecognized by the NHI, one wonders at the wisdom of selecting the ancestral house of a sitting president as a "heritage site," much more so when the same house was built only in 1950, a relatively recent year.

The NHI rites for the new heritage site was, in fact, presided over by President Macapagal-Arroyo herself. It was also she who unveiled the NHI steel marker declaring her family's ancestral home, as "the house that exemplified the architecture of the 1950s, not only reflecting the ingenuity and artistry of its builders but also a significant phase in the development of Philippine domestic architecture."

NHI Resolution No. 10 also states that the house and land on which the house stands have been donated to the city government of Iligan and that the house itself today serves as a museum for the Macapagal-Macaraeg family.

Selling our soul to politics is not only a form of destruction. It is also cultural violence. Now that our people are still asking where Garci is, it would seem that the NHI officials have turned political apologists as to the whereabouts of Virgilio Garcillano.

Perhaps, we should be asking them, where is Garci?

Comments to monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph

Remembrance of books past

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



I GREW UP SURROUNDED BY BOOKS. MY EARLIEST recollections involved books—or, rather, playing among and with books. My nursery was my father's library. When I was bored with my toys, I would play with my father's books. I had a passion for doodling on them. When I wasn't busy disfiguring books, I would pore over old copies of Time and Newsweek. I made no attempt to read those magazines. I just liked looking at the pictures.

I only learned to read when I was 7, and then only after intensive tutoring. The tutor became the first in a long line of tutors who were responsible for getting me out of booby traps, which I imagined educators and parents deliberately placed in the "life paths" of students to compensate themselves for the headaches we caused them. I never understood why young men and women in the prime of their lives had to be condemned to fussing with equations and the conjugations of verbs. If it weren't for such diabolical inventions as algebra and sentence diagramming (a discipline which took much of the fun out of manipulating words), not to mention horrors such as the present pluperfect in Latin and the *passé composé* of the French tongue, I would have done magnificently in school. I had a head for science, and I could always write (so long as it had nothing to do with the "rules" of sentence construction), and I could draw tolerably well. But there were all those subjects that seemed to exist merely to make life hell: not just math or grammar, but also highly developed ways of torturing the brain which went by the name of philosophy and logic; and the manipulation of drudge-inducing skills such as footnoting and the citation of sources that were purely decorative, anyway.

Suffice it to say, I developed the firm conviction that learning was less about the acquisition of knowledge, particularly the type of knowledge worth absorbing (facts and skills concerning things I was personally interested in), and more about regimenting one's brain, so that, by pummeling it into submission in the classroom, the in-

tellect that the school eventually produced would serve as a monument to the limitations of those responsible for teaching. What sort of a life is this, I perpetually asked myself, that condemns us to be trained, like little dogs, to urinate ink on pieces of paper, and then to derive satisfaction from being praised for the performance?

The despair that would overwhelm me after school, I discovered, could only be dispelled by books. The library that had suffered my depredations as an infant became the source of some of my happiest times. In my father's library I was free to roam around, pull titles off shelves, and devour them. My good fortune was that my father read all sorts of books on all sorts of subjects, including subjects that were of interest to me, such as architecture, art, politics, philosophy and religion; and subjects for which I developed an intense dislike for no better reason than my father's passion for them.

And so I basically educated myself, reading up on things I liked, never mind that I was a confirmed rebel when it came to knowledge I didn't want to acquire.

School became a glorious battleground. A campaign against discipline, against one's elders, even against those who claimed to be your classmates but who were, truth be told, the heirs apparent of the agents of repression that populated the apparatus of the educational system.

It didn't help that my father (he once confessed to me, in one of those moments of remorse that parents are so lovingly prone to as they—and their children—get older) had based my upbringing on the life of a great economist and political philosopher. John Stuart Mill had spent his childhood

learning ancient languages and all sorts of precocious things, and spent the rest of his existence—when he wasn't churning out essays on political philosophy—trying to become a psychologically normal person (he failed). The refuge that I found in my father's library ended up containing one, incalculable danger: my father himself. My exploration of the bookshelves became subject to interruption by my father's exasperated presence, inquiring about grades, my penmanship. As I grew older, and less prone to be intimidated, these encounters became, in themselves, skirmishes in a larger campaign I won. I stopped going to school. My father would still go into his fits of *sturm und drang*, and rage on about a son who had no degree. And yet, he would say to me, usually after we had compared notes on a book we had both read: "You know, I don't know what I would have done if I'd ended up with a stupid son." High praise, indeed. I mean it.

Once, about a year before he died, I asked him, about his confession that he patterned my upbringing on the horrific childhood of John Stuart Mill:

"But didn't you realize that Mill had a miserable childhood?"

"Well, yes," he replied. "But I thought I could avoid those mistakes. I realize I may have made your childhood more difficult because of that dream," he said. And then he said he was sorry. I realize now how precious that apology was. We spend our lives consumed with living our own dramas, singing operatic arias which we believe serve to validate our lives, presuming we have everything and everyone figured out, only to realize that what we thought we knew was all wrong.

The frightening thing is that I could have spent my whole life in ignorance of this lesson. The purpose of learning is to learn humility. To realize that there is so much more to be known than we can ever hope to find out on our own.

That is why, one day, and not too far off, I hope to go back to school again.

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph/blog

Parliamentary system not enough to bring our country to prosperity

AT THE MOPC NIGHT ON SEPT. 26, House Speaker Jose de Venecia made an eloquent and exuberant presentation of the merits of a parliamentary form of government. He claimed that a parliamentary system would be the cure for our ailing political system as well as the magic wand that would enable the Philippines to join the ranks of Asia's economic tigers, like South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, etc.

However, it would be difficult to delude the people into believing that the parliamentary system is the key to solving our many problems. We have to look at this proposal more deeply and in a wider perspective. We know that a confluence of factors, some of which were more important than the form of government, was responsible for the economic success and political stability of the countries mentioned by the Speaker.

For instance, Singapore and Malaysia flourished under a strong leadership euphemistically called democratic authori-

tarianism. This type of leadership was made possible by the fact that both Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore and Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia headed dominant political parties in their respective countries. Malaysia is also blessed by abundant natural resources such as oil, rubber, palm oil, tin and timber. Although lacking in natural resources, Singapore harnessed the talents and capabilities of its multiracial people for the city-state's enviable economic and moral ascent.

In the case of South Korea, Park Chung-hee wielded the dictatorial powers he enjoyed for 18 years (1961-1979) to transform his backward country into an economic powerhouse. The leadership factor worked in tandem with the Korean people's innate characteristics, namely: discipline, work ethic, patriotism, nationalism, determination, perseverance and entrepreneurial spirit. Korea's educational system is now at par with Japan. It is also a blessing that this country has a homoge-

neous people, with a common language serving as a unifying factor. Devoid of natural resources, the Korean people had to struggle for survival in the face of harsh winter and a formidable territory, 70 percent of which is mountainous. Another important element that goaded the Koreans to strive for excellence was their earnest desire to equal or even surpass the achievements of the Japanese who occupied and humiliated them for 35 years—from 1910 to 1945.

The question that confronts us is: what factors will work in the light of the present state of affairs and morality in our country?

—JUAN DEVEZA,
41 Mayaman St.,
UP Village, Quezon City

Tax the Church to keep priests in line

I AM IN FAVOR OF TAXING THE CHURCH so that the government will be able to generate more revenues. Not only that, it can also help check and control the wealth of men and women of the cloth.

It is public knowledge that the Catholic Church in the Philippines is very wealthy. A number of bishops, priests and religious have millions of deposits. Some are making huge profits out of running schools and hospitals.

It is very sad that the original purpose for which these institutions were established—to help the poor—is no longer being followed. These Catholic institutions are now charging the poor exorbitantly. The call to tax the Church could not have surfaced if only our Church officials had programs for the poor, like the "Gawad Kalinga" housing program of the Couples for Christ. Regrettably, these institutions have only fat bank accounts.

Yes, our Church officials cannot be forced to give an accounting on how they spend their money because, in the first place, they are not government officials. They got their money mostly from dona-

tions. Yet, they are not supposed to abuse such "donations" because the primary intention of the donor, though unexpressed, is charity. But the greatest beneficiaries of such donations are those bishops, priests and religious sisters who are not faithful to their vows, especially the vow of poverty. More than that, they have the tendency to keep "secret families" or live in luxury. Taxing the Church might yet keep these people true to their vows.

However, while I am in favor of taxing the Church, safeguards must be installed to keep taxes from the hands of corrupt government officials, otherwise taxes will just end up in their pockets.

It is unfair and unjust to exempt Church officials from paying taxes, while the poor—who have more right to be exempt from taxes because their lives are a constant struggle for survival—painstakingly carry the tax burden. Where is justice then?

—FR. PEPOYE CABATINGAN,
St. Rita Parish,
9014 Gingoog City

No FPI representative in meeting at Citibank on 'bullet amendment'

THIS HAS REFERENCE TO THE INQUIRER'S banner story titled "Bro. Mike, Hyatt 10 push snap election" (PDI, 10/24/05) by Juliet Labog Javellana, Carla Gomez and Fe Zamora. The news item made mention of a call for a "bullet amendment" of the Constitution that would pave the way for a snap election.

The news item reported that "Osmeña said the meeting at the Citibank Tower in Makati was attended by nine businessmen from the Makati Business Club, Financial Executives of the Philippines, Management Association of the Philippines and the Federation of Philippine Industries."

Due to the sensitivity and seriousness of the matter, Sen. Sergio Osmeña should be asked to identify the businessman who supposedly rep-

resented the FPI in the meeting, considering that it has cross membership with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. If Osmeña or his source cannot identify the businessman, he should refrain from making such imputations against the FPI.

Please be informed that the FPI did not receive any invitation and was not aware of the meeting being referred to in the news item. The FPI did not participate or authorize anybody to represent the organization in the supposed meeting.

—JESUS L. ARRANZA,
president,
Federation of Philippine Industries Inc.,
308 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Ext.,
Makati City

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Fund lack keeps 'slide victims in mass grave

REAL, QUEZON—FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE MORE THAN 90 persons who died in landslides in the ill-fated Repador Building in Barangay Tignoan, the coming All Souls Day will be different from previous ones.

What they will visit to pay respects and say prayers are patches of hastily dug graves facing the vast Pacific Ocean, marked with several wood crosses and covered with beach sand.

Real Mayor Arsenio Ramallosa expressed apprehension that with the onslaught of the rainy season and occasion-

al typhoons, strong waves from the sea could wash out the rotting bodies.

"It will bring great trouble for all of us, especially for the families of the buried victims. We might end up fishing for their remains in the high seas," Ramallosa said.

At the height of successive typhoons in November last year, more than a hun-

dred villagers sought shelter inside the Repador Building here, thinking it would protect them from the swelling floods.

But an avalanche of mud and water from the hilly portion across the road knocked the two-story structure down.

Only four persons, three of them children, survived the landslide after being buried for 11 days under the ruins of the concrete and steel building.

Ramallosa said they had already allocated a site for the new cemetery in the upper portion of nearby Barangay Llavac

that would accommodate the remains.

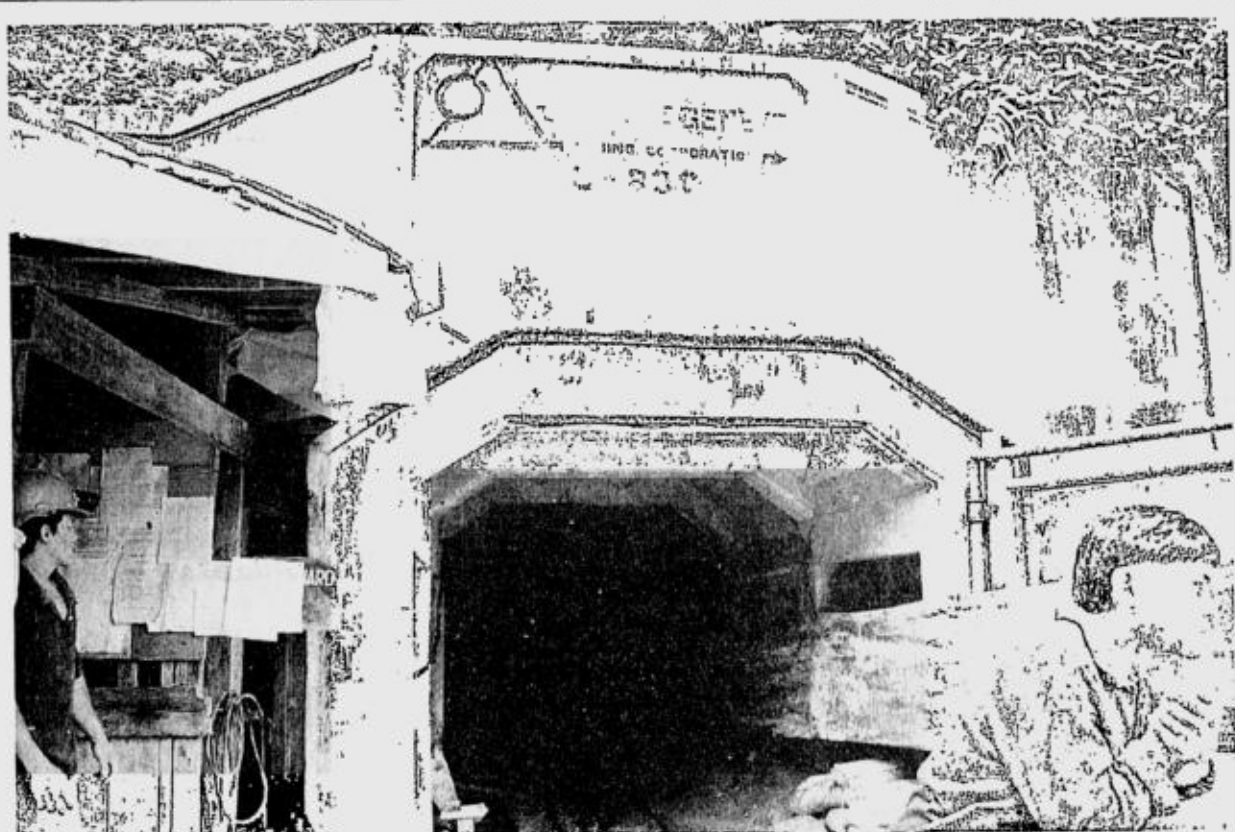
The mayor said they would also exhume and transfer the remains of the other victims who were buried by their families near their homes.

However, he admitted that the cash-strapped local government was hard-up to provide the estimated P500,000 for the new cemetery project.

Mirant Phils. Foundation, the corporate so-

cial responsibility arm of the giant power firm Mirant, has offered assistance for the project.

"We still have some remaining funds from our typhoon relief program. It could help," Roberto Calingo, MPF executive director, told Ramallosa after the local chief executive appealed for help during the turnover ceremony of a Mirant-donated new school building last month. **Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**



DEATH SCENE

The Sunshine Tunnel owned by JB Management Mining Corp. keeps in its belly miners who are feared dead following a cave-in that has claimed several lives so far.

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Benguet execs take pride in UNDP award

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—OFFICIALS here were surprised to learn that the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has recognized Benguet as the most progressive among the country's poorest provinces.

Knowing that the province still belongs to the "Club 20," the group of the country's poorest provinces, the officials wondered how the UN agency arrived at the award.

But they welcomed the recognition, saying it reflected the culture of humility and simplicity of the Benguet people.

A 2005 Philippine Human Development Report, a UN-sponsored study, showed that among the country's poorest provinces, Benguet led in terms of the human development index (HDI).

HDI is a measure of well-being based on life expectancy, literacy, enrollment ratio and per capita income.

Gov. Borromeo Melchor said he did not expect the award but said the province had just shown it could use its resources wisely.

Board Member John Kim said the award was significant because it reflected how successful the province handled its peace situation.

Kapangan Vice Mayor Rogelio Dagupan also welcomed the award but wondered on the criteria used to classify the province as poor but "developed."

In its report, the UNDP said Benguet led nine other provinces—Laguna, Batanes, Rizal, Cavite, Nueva Vizcaya, Pampanga, Bataan, Bulacan and Ilocos Norte—in terms of HDI compared to other poor provinces.

The UNDP confirmed Benguet's achievement during the 4th Gawad Sa Makataong Pag-unlad awarding ceremony on Oct. 26 in Pasay City.

Melchor said the award came at a time when the province was grappling with development that had seriously affected vegetable farming, the province's main industry.

To be recognized as top performing province is "something that we could draw inspiration from and build on," he said.

"We were cited because we are not a corrupt people. We live simple lives and we are also hard-working. We also do not spend much," he said.

Kim said the recognition showed how peaceful the province was.

"The award is all about peace process. It is given to provinces which may have insurgency problems but the situation has not caused undue disruption to the growth of the local economy," he said.

The Gawad classified the country's poor provinces into two categories: those which are "most peaceful and stable" and those that are "most vulnerable and at risk."

CPR applied to protesters planning rally in Catarman

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—ARMY SOLDIERS yesterday stopped more than 600 members of human rights groups in Catubig and Laoang towns, both in Northern Samar, from proceeding to the capital town of Catarman where they were supposed to converge for a rally.

Four buses carrying 500 members belonging to Katugod-Sinirangan Bisayas were flagged down by soldiers manning a checkpoint in Barangay Opong, Catubig town and were not allowed to proceed to Catarman.

A separate group of 107 Katun-

god members on board four buses were also stopped at the Army checkpoint in Barangay Rawis in Laoang town.

The two incidents happened almost simultaneously at about 5:30 a.m. yesterday, said Jonathan Calades, provincial coordinator of Katugod-Sinirangan Bisayas.

The two groups were supposed to converge at the Provincial Capitol in Catarman to hold a rally to denounce the human rights violations perpetrated by the military.

Since the soldiers would not allow them to go to Catarman, the groups decided to hold their protest actions at the public plazas in Catubig and Laoang.

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Panay caravan condemns killings

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS and relatives of victims of political killings held a two-day caravan on Panay Island in observance of All Saints' Day and to condemn the rash of killings of activists in Central Luzon.

Led by the human rights group Karap-

atan and the Mothers and Relatives Against Tyranny (Martyr), the caravan dubbed "Luksang Bayan" was also in honor of around 400 "martyrs and heroes" in Panay who died fighting for democracy and freedom.

Among those honored were former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier, who was killed at the height of the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship, on Feb. 11, 1986, peasant leader

Valeriano Caro and guerrilla leader Coronacion "Waling-Waling" Chiva.

Luksang Bayan has become a yearly activity since it began during the last years of the Marcos dictatorship to grieve and seek justice for those killed in extrajudicial killings or "salvaging" allegedly by the military during martial law.

"Through a caravan, we hope to reach out to the relatives of heroes and martyrs in other places in Panay and to the people," said Jocelyn Mana-ay, Martyr chairperson.

She noted that most of the activities in the past have been centered in Iloilo City, where a monument has been erected in Plaza Libertad for the heroes and martyrs.

The caravan, with around 100 participants and 10 vehicles, took off Saturday morning from the city and made a stopover in Belison town in Antique before staying overnight in Aklan's capital town of Kalibo.

It proceeded the next day to Roxas City in Capiz and made a stopover and program at the Monument for Heroes at the Dinggoy Roxas Provincial Park.

The caravan ended around 4 p.m. on Sunday in Iloilo City where a program capping the caravan was held at the monument in Plaza Libertad.

The human rights groups and families of the victims of martial law condemned the series of killings of leaders of militant organization in Central Luzon.

Samuel Torato, Panay Alliance secretary general, said the killings were "senseless" and called for their "swift and judicious investigation."

The participants of the caravan also condemned the "rising repression" under President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Surely, our heroes and martyrs must be turning over their graves on the President's policies akin or even worse than those employed by the Marcos dictatorship," Torato said.



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Spectators take shelter from the heat under a colored umbrella as they watch a street presentation for the Ibalong Festival of Legazpi City.

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US traders seek protection for vets' cemetery

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE AMERICAN CHAMBER of Commerce and Industry on Saturday asked the government caretaker and the developer of Camp John Hay to protect old war memorial cemeteries that were turned over by the United States to the government.

Lesley Ann Murray, first vice president of Amcham's Filipino American Memorial Endowment (Fame), said she is documenting the state of the two cemeteries on Loakan Road here, which have been looted or vandalized.

Murray, 70, has been visiting the cemeteries since September, and has been documenting tombstone etchings in preparation for a major research for the US government to determine who are actually buried here.

Theft

The 200-square-meter cemetery that is supervised by Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco), for example, lost 136 metal crosses and tombstones to thieves since the country assumed jurisdiction over Camp John Hay's assets in 1991, said Adam Borja, CJHDevco spokesperson.

Another cemetery, which is supervised by the estate manager, John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC), is used as a grazing area for cattle by local residents.

Borja and Francelyn Moredo, JHMC vice president, agreed to prepare restoration plans for the cemeteries, as soon as Fame approves a funding proposal for P500,000 to execute the government plan.

Borja said the developers have asked for funds to secure the remaining 26 tombs inside the 264-hectare property leased to CJHDevco.

Search for evidence

Borja said Fame could find more evidence of the tomb owners' identities at the JHMC-protected cemetery. He said sections of the CJHDevco-administered cemetery have been dug up, apparently by treasure hunters.

Fame has been a principal benefactor for many of the country's World War II memorial shrines.

There appears to be bigger interest in the John Hay cemeteries because of a proposed international World War II reunion program for veterans being scheduled in Baguio City in January next year, said Borja.

But to the public, these cemeteries are overshadowed by the Cemetery of Negativism, a 26-year-old park inside Camp John Hay that was conceived by Maj. John Hightower, the camp's last American commander, as a venue for bottling up and burying negative thoughts.

But tourists always refer to the park as a "pet cemetery" or a "lost cemetery" because of Hightower's idea to create animal characters to represent bad values.

Among the characters there are the dogs "Blame Mi Willy," "Just Kant Shakit" and "Wont B. Used," the baton-wielding lion "Knot a Teemplayer," and the prancing monkey "Eye Forgot."

Interest on the cemeteries peaked as usual as All Saints' and All Souls' Day draw near, signaling the start of an annual ritual for Filipinos who trek to cemeteries to visit their dead loved ones.

The annual trek is usually marked by heavy traffic and a mad search for rides to provinces.

Bacolod bishop reiterates call to stop collection of new taxes

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—BACOLOD BISHOP Vicente Navarra has called on the faithful to pray that God will touch the conscience of the nation's leaders to prevent the further suffering of the people, as he reiterated his call for government to stop the implementation of expanded value added tax on Tuesday.

"Let us pray that God will touch the hearts of those who oppress and cause difficulties in our lives so that they will solve the problems of our nation," Navarra told parishioners gathered at the San Sebastian Cathedral in Bacolod on Friday night.

Navarra read two statements toward the end of the Mass—one was on e-VAT and the other on the calibrated pre-emptive response (CPR) that includes strict enforcement of a "no permit no rally policy" and a ban on rallies near Malacañang Palace.

The bishop reiterated the opposition of the Church and the laity of the Diocese of Bacolod on the e-VAT due to the harm it

would do the poor.

"There can be no true peace in the Philippines if we levy additional taxes on the impoverished population, and if we pass new laws on additional taxes when the present ones are enough

to generate sufficient funds," he said.

He called on Congress to repeal the e-VAT just as the Supreme Court reversed its previous decision on the unconstitutionality of the Mining Act of 1995, he said.

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ARRIVAL RITES

Indigenous Tagbanua tribal elders perform a ritual to drive away evil spirits and welcome the good ones aboard the Greenpeace flagship Rainbow Warrior after its arrival in Puerto Princesa Oct. 28.

JAY DIRECTOR/AFP

Mayor says anti-bird flu efforts not enough

CANDABA, PAMPANGA—THE agriculture and health departments were not giving local governments the support they needed in the campaign against the entry of the bird flu virus into the country, Mayor Jerry Pelayo said on Friday.

Pelayo criticized the two departments after agriculture officials declared a ban on duck raising in 20 provinces where migratory birds take breeding and winter refuge and as health officials prepared hospitals and started stocking up on anti-bird flu drugs.

"These are laudable [efforts] but these are not enough," he said.

Pelayo lamented that after seven months of lobbying, the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and the National Disaster Coordinating Council have yet to support initiatives against bird flu in his town.

These, he said, are the provision of wires that would fence off the 250-hectare bird sanctuary in his town, which is at the center of the 32,000-ha Candaba Swamp; the mill that would supply feeds to some 500 duck raisers who had agreed to stop raising their stocks around the sanctuary; and a budget for a patrol vehicle and patrol teams that would guard four quarantine gates.

The town's anti-bird flu task force estimated these efforts to cost P30 million, he said.

"We have done our bit in this campaign but the municipal government's funds could not support the other needs. When I heard that DA and DOH talked about setting aside millions of pesos on counter-measures, it was sad to know that we were left out," Pelayo told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He said he has grown tired of appealing to the DOH that early this month promised to provide only pamphlets containing information on the avian influenza.

"Those pamphlets would be useless if people don't participate in the drive. Initiatives are not lacking in my town. Why don't they help us?" he said.

The DA, through the Bureau of Animal Industry, only gave two veterinarians who would assist in the 24-hour monitoring of local poultry and migratory fowl.

"They think these are enough? These are not. The very efforts of the front liners, volunteers and personnel in my town who agreed to be mobilized for the preventive measures, are really not even getting any help," Pelayo said.

"Get the anti-bird flu drive in the grassroots. These national agencies are not really seeing the sense of involving local governments [in the anti-bird flu efforts]," he said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Oriental Negros got P5M from GMA fertilizer fund

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—THE PROVINCE of Oriental Negros received a portion of the controversial P728-million fertilizer fund shortly before the 2004 elections but local officials insisted that the money was not used for President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign.

Provincial Administrator Mariou Kho said the provincial government got about P5 million from the Department of Agriculture through its Central Visayas office.

Kho could not remember the exact date when the province received the money but she said it was before the 2004 presidential elections. But she said the money could not have been used to obtain political favors from farmer-beneficiaries.

Kho said the money was used to purchase farm inputs and equipment, which were delivered to farmers in the province "long

after the elections."

"In fact, the fertilizers and other farm inputs purchased (using) the amount were distributed several months after the election because the bidding process took some time," she added.

The Senate committee on agriculture and food is conducting an investigation of the alleged misuse of the P728-million fertilizer fund.

The funds were allegedly diverted to boost Ms Arroyo's presidential campaign last year.

Provincial Agriculturist Gregorio Palencia said of the P5 million received by the province, P3 million was used to purchase organic and inorganic fertilizers.

He said the fertilizers were distributed to different farmers' groups about six months after the May 2004 elections.

The remaining amount was spent in buying 12 units of flat bed dryers, shellers, threshers and hand tractors.

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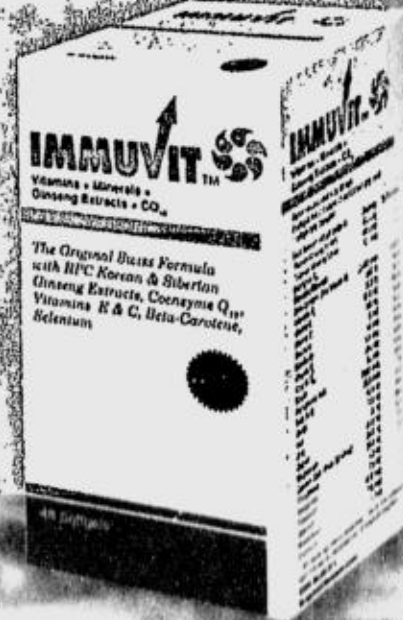
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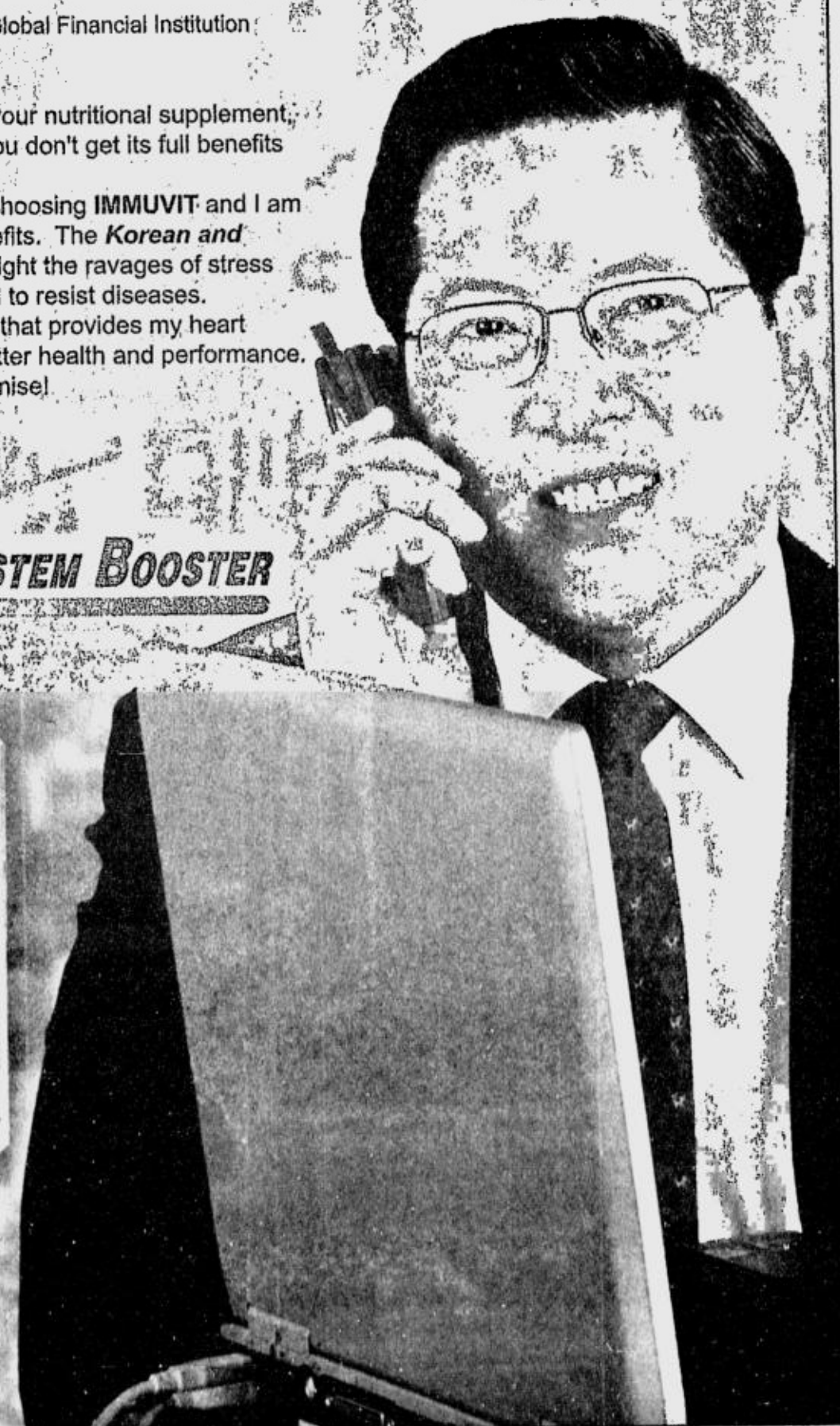
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Sulu gets US aid in new front in war on terror

JOLO, SULU—WHILE INDIRECTLY confronting the threat brought about by the Jemaah Islamiyah and its local allies by helping strengthen the Philippine military, US forces are also busy waging the war on terror on various fronts.

On Oct. 22, about 1,000 children here, aged 1-12 years old,

became beneficiaries of the 2nd Medical and Dental Civic Action Program (MedCap) undertaken by the joint RP-US Joint Special Operations Task Force (JSOTF).

Sulu, considered the hotbed of the Moro insurgency and radical Muslim armed groups, is one of the many priority areas of the US

forces, based in Zamboanga City, for their humanitarian assistance.

Aside from providing medical and dental services, US forces also provide assistance for infrastructure projects in the province.

US Marine Capt. Leo Liebrich, chief of the Humanitarian Service Center of the JSOTF, said they be-

lieve that focusing on child care would have a greater impact on the children when they grow up.

Lt. Col. Jim McAllister, JSOTF commander, said the United States is also working closely with the Philippine government because it believes that by improving the socioeconomic condition of

the people of Sulu, "terrorism will be largely eradicated."

Despite the growing concerns over the presence of JI operatives in some parts of the province, McAllister said there would be no war exercise in the province.

"Exercises to be done are limited to engineering, medical and dental missions," he said.

In Zamboanga City, US Charge d'Affaires Scott Ballard said the US warship that docked there on Thursday was being used for humanitarian missions "and for security cooperation event that would benefit the people of the Philippines."

"Let no one in the Philippines or the region doubt the US commitment, we are here to train, advise and assist our allies and

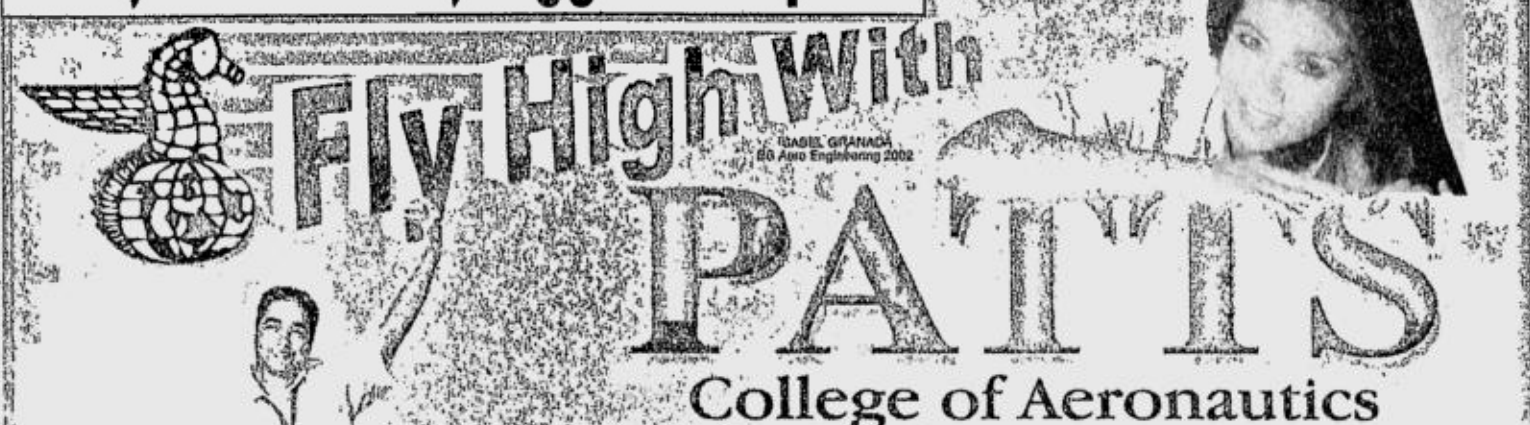
friends in the fight against terror," Ballard said.

The High Speed Vessel (HSV), according to ship captain Navy Commander Tom Shawn, only docked in Zamboanga to "unload humanitarian supplies and equipment."

Reporters saw hundreds of boxes containing backpacks loaded with educational materials, sewing machines, textbooks and other equipment intended for Sulu and infant formula for the city's orphanage center.

The vessel docked a day after the military announced the arrest of terror suspect Ahmad Santos, the alleged leader of the Rajah Sulayman Movement. **Ed General, Julie Alipala and Jeffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

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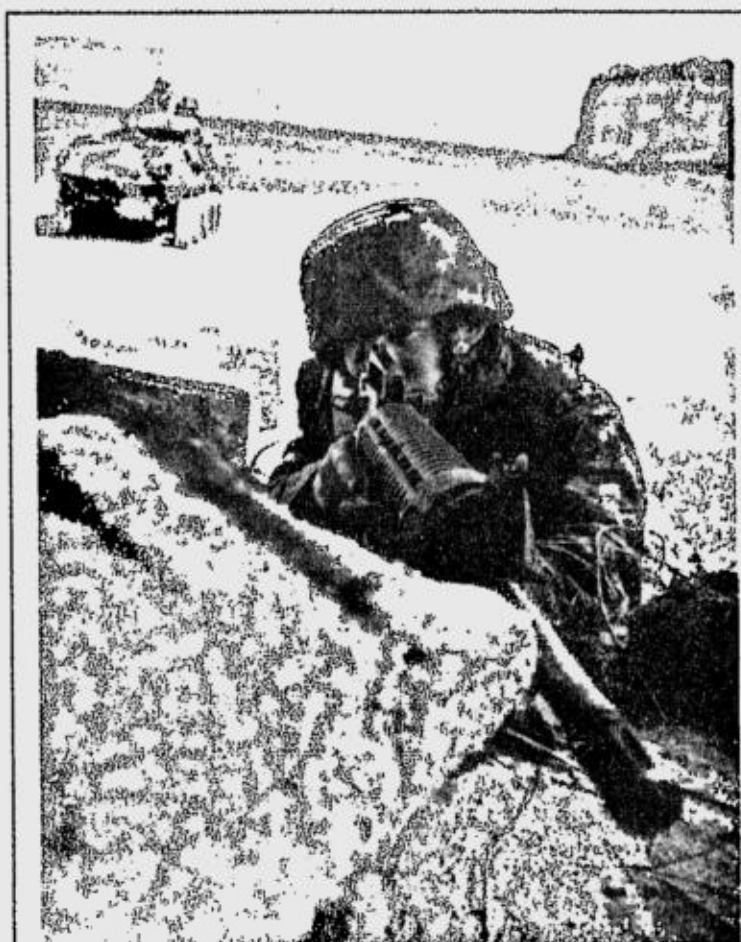
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PRACTICE

US Marines take their positions at a beach landing exercise with Philippine troops at Ternate, Cavite, Oct. 29, 2005. The annual joint exercises by the two countries have taken on an urgency in recent years as the Philippine military has launched US-backed offensives against al-Qaida-linked terrorist groups in Mindanao.

RICO GONZALES/AP

2 days of rain bring misery to Quezon folk

SAMPALOC, QUEZON—CLOSE TO 1,000 houses in eight villages here and another four in nearby Mauban town were submerged in floodwater Friday night when the water level in the Maapon River overflowed after two days of heavy rains, damaging millions of pesos worth of property, agricultural crops and livestock.

Several landslides along the Lucban-Sampaloc road and the Sampaloc-Mauban road prevented the immediate dispatch of relief goods for the thousands of victims lining the provincial road—all hungry and wet.

Fortunately, no casualties or missing persons have been reported, Sampaloc Mayor Samson Delgado said.

"The people immediately evacuated to safer grounds. We teach our town mates to be always ready whenever there are several days of strong rains," he said.

Rep. Rafael Nantes immediately dispatched a team from the Department of Public Works and Highways to clear the six landslide areas.

"We have to make the road passable for the delivery of relief goods for the victims," he said in a phone interview.

On Saturday evening, Nantes distributed food, dry clothes and blankets to flood victims, which he said he purchased from his own personal funds.

"The people are desperate and hungry. The children are shivering. We have to act fast and not wait for the bureaucratic mill," he said.

According to Delgado, Maapon River rose by at least five meters—reaching even the villages of Alupay, Banot, Biluca, Ilaya and Ibabang Uwain, Bataan, Taquico and Bayungon, which all lie in the upper side of the riverbank.

So high was the water that the hanging bridge in Barangay Ibabang Uwain, which crosses the Maapon River, was also flooded and destroyed, the mayor added.

"The rise of the water was so fast. We only had ample time to evacuate to higher grounds but we left all our belongings, even our animals. There are plenty of dead animals around. They died of drowning," he said.

Sacks of newly harvested palay were seen submerged in muddy water along the provincial road.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

ARMM teachers plan suit over missing P200M in pay

COTABATO CITY—TEACHERS IN the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) are suing former education officials in the region for graft and corruption after it was discovered that their missing salaries for August and September had already been encashed.

The missing salaries, amounting to about P200 million, are on top of the nearly P1 billion in insurance premiums that previous Department of Education-ARMM officials failed to remit to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) starting 1997.

"The new set of DepEd-ARMM regional officials here met in an emergency meeting on Friday after having traced a paper trail indicating that some 40 pieces of

checks dated Sept. 5 to the tune of P199 million from the Office of the Regional Governor had been transferred to the DepEd regional office for encashment," Suwalb Maulana, a school principal of SK Pendatun, Maguindanao, said.

Maulana is currently acting spokesperson for the complaining ARMM teachers.

Sultan Kudarat Mayor Tocao Mastura, who volunteered to help the teachers, said he would pursue the plan of the teachers to bring the matter to court.

He said he was willing to shoulder the legal fees.

Newly installed ARMM Education Secretary Udog Kawit said he will look into the irregularities. **Charlie C. Serase, PDI Mindanao Bureau**



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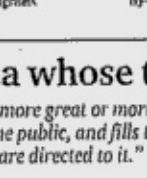
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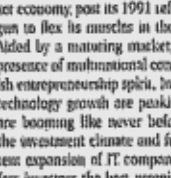
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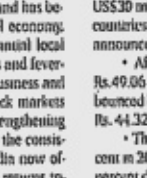
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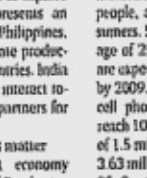
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This information sheet attempts to capture India's dynamic landscape that presents an enormous opportunity for the Philippines, which is capitalizing on, will accelerate productivity and innovation in both the countries. India and Philippines, nations that barely existed a day, could turn out to be the ideal partners for the new century.

The Indian economy: Size does matter
India is the 4th largest economy (US\$3.36 trillion in GDP) in terms of Purchasing Power Parity after USA, China and Japan, and the 2nd fastest growing economy in the world with an average of 6.9 percent GDP growth (for 2004-05).

Foreign exchange reserves have reached a record level of US\$138.84 billion in June 2005, and now exceeds foreign debt (US\$113 billion in September 2004). With its large foreign reserves, India has made premature repayments of US\$1 billion of "high cost" loans to the IMF and the ADB.

The external debt to GDP ratio has improved significantly from 38.7 percent in 1992 to 17.8 percent (end-March 2004), one of the lowest among developing economies.

The Governments discontinued receiving aid from other countries except Japan, UK, Germany, USA, EU, France, Italy, Canada and the Russian Federation, and have paid all bilateral debts owed to all other countries except those mentioned.

Since July 2003, India has become a net

creditor to the IMF. It has written off debts of US\$30 million due from seven heavily indebted countries as part of its development initiative announced in February 2003.

After an all-time low exchange rate of Rs. 49.06 per US dollar in May 2002, the rupee bounced back as of October 07, 2005 in US\$1 = Rs. 44.32.

The inflation rate was contained at 6 percent in 2004-05 and has been approximately 5.5 percent during the current year.

Consumer market
India has a large and growing market of 1 billion people, a third of which are middle class consumers. 54 percent of its population is below the age of 25 - a vigorous market. Shopping malls are expected to increase from 25 in 2003 to 600 by 2009. In June 2005, there were 57.8 million cell phone subscribers, a figure expected to reach 100 million by 2007 at the rate of increase of 1.5 million per month. PC sales have reached 3.63 million units, a 20 percent growth in 2004-05. Car sales have reached 8.64 Lakh units as of January 2005, with exports of additional vehicles.

Capital market
India has the 3rd largest investor base in the world, with a vibrant capital market competing 23 stock exchanges with over 9,000 listed companies. Bombay Stock Exchange is the 2nd largest after the NYSE. According to Credit Lyonnais (CLSA), India's stock market has the greatest short-term and long-term potential in Asia. Market capitalization of stocks traded on the Indian bourses is approximately US\$430 billion in July 2004. The number of companies with a market capitalization of over US\$1 billion is 48. According to a 2003 CLSA study, India's 16 largest capitalization companies give a 30 percent average return on equity vis-a-vis only 17 percent in China. BSE Sensex has peaked and has been consistently above the 8000 mark in the last few weeks.

Potential for investment in India
India's potential for investment has been

consistently increased for the coming years. This includes the expansion, upgrading or modernization of roads (with private sector participation), railway, airports and seaports; the provision of a better power generation and distribution, water supply system, oil and gas, and exploration ventures on mineral resources. Booming industries, such as telecommunications, IT and call center, also offer substantial investment potential. Biotechnology and bioinformatics are both priority development projects. Food, textiles and automobiles offer opportunities due to rising urbanization.

India's foreign investment policies and procedures are simple, transparent and investor-friendly, making it an ideal haven for foreign investors.

Indian investments abroad
Indian companies have started venturing into other countries for marketing, production, acquisition and even research and development. Investments abroad by Indian companies in 2004-05 were US\$2.5 billion. Indian firms have extensive investments and joint ventures in the US, as well as Singapore, mostly technology-oriented. In recent years, Indian companies have acquired 120 foreign firms (2003-2004) worth US\$1.6 billion. From automobiles to steel, from pharmaceuticals to tea, Indian companies have made their business presence felt in several parts of the world, and are continuing to spread in other areas.

India's software and remote services industry growth
In the present era of globalization, synergies among countries are not only essential but unavoidable. With India being widely recognized by the world as the IT destination, the opportunities for IT cooperation between countries are immense. Growing aggressively over the past 15 years, India's software industry spearheads the country's export industries in the global market. Indian expertise is powering companies with crucial 24 x 7 hour processing needs, and helping customers improve their bottom lines as well as productivity and efficiency. At the same time, it is also emerging as a major hub for investments by IT companies and a destination for off-shoring.

India's pharmaceutical industry
The Indian pharmaceutical industry is expected to grow at about 11 percent per annum, from US\$8.8 billion in 2003-04 to US\$13.6 billion in 2007-08. Pharmaceutical exports to regulated markets in the US and Europe for generic drugs are expected to increase significantly by 2007-08 due to patent expirations of branded products in the US and Europe. Apart from this, India is taking the pharmaceutical business to those geographies where Indian presence is not well represented.

The strength and leverage of India pharmaceutical companies lie in its lower domestic production costs, which is 50 percent less compared to developed countries like China and Israel, and availability of quality manpower.

India-Philippines bilateral trade and economic relations

Bilateral trade between India and the Philippines went up from US\$189 million in 1998 to US\$372 million in 2004, with Indian exports at US\$283 million and Philippine exports at US\$89 million. While exports to India have increased considerably from US\$38 million in 1998, the potential of bilateral trade is much more. The major Indian exports are frozen buffalo meat, pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, textile yarns, petrochemicals, auto and motorcycle parts, cereals, etc. While major imports from the Philippines are semi-conductors, inorganic chemicals, auto parts, newspapers, garments and miscellaneous industrial products.

Indian investments in the Philippines are mainly in the areas of textiles, IT and recently, steel. Philippine investments in India are in IT, waste processing and IIR (management education).

An in-depth review of bilateral trade and economic relations was recently undertaken by the Indo-Philippines Joint Working Group. Of late, exchange of business delegations between India and the Philippines have increased - a positive development which shows an enhanced interest in doing business with each other.

Messages



I wish you all a joyful and blessed Diwali 2005 and also a happy and prosperous New Year.

As Ambassador of India in the Philippines, I deem it my privilege at the same time, to seek your support in promoting India in the Philippines. India's presence in the Philippines as you know, has been growing. In various professional fields and in top management positions, our skills are contributing to an improved Indian profile over the last few years. This process should continue, with better and more travel and communications, we expect growing people-to-people contact which will result in greater understanding and mutual respect for our cultures, our histories, our cuisines, our mores. With direct flights proposed in the near future, tourism will add to the cross-fertilization of ideas.

We notice that Filipinos too, are traveling to India in search of work and contributing to the skill levels in our country: so the process of interaction is now two ways and no longer one way alone. The economies of both countries will benefit from these exchanges. This is my dream - I am sure it is yours as well.

Wishing you once again, a Happy and prosperous Diwali and New Year!

NAVREKHA SHARMA (Sgd)
Ambassador
India to the Philippines



Congratulations to the Filipino-Indian Chamber of Commerce (Phil) Inc. (FICCI) on their celebration of the Indian New Year.

The city government of Makati has always welcomed the opportunity to interact with other cultures. We are thus grateful to the FICCI for organizing a "Diwali Mela" here in Makati as this provides the city and its constituents a chance to experience the rich culture of India right here in the Philippines.

The Makati City Government wishes peace and prosperity to the members of the FICCI and the local Indian community.

Thank you very much. Mahalugayong Lahat.

JITENDER PURI (Sgd)
Mayor, City of Makati



The Filipino-Indian Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with The Hindu Temple, Indian Ladies Club, Muslim Ladies Club and the BMA Foundation will be holding the 2nd "Diwali Mela" (Diwali Festival/Fest) at the Glorietta 4 Activity Center, Makati Commercial District this evening from 5-8 pm.

Diwali is the Indian New Year and is also known as the Festival of Lights. We came up with this event to increase awareness in the Philippines of this beautiful and colorful festival. The first Diwali Mela was held last year at the Baywalk, Iloilo. With a huge turnout and successful event we have decided to have another one this year.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Indian Chamber and the entire Indian Community, I would like to invite you all to be part of our program tonight. It promises to be an evening of delight to one and all. We will be featuring both cultural and modern dances, a fashion show led by Indian and Filipino talents as well as Indian music and wonderful delicacies. This event will give everyone a chance to interact with each other while enjoying the program we have in store.

I would especially like to thank Mayor Jitender Puri, our Ambassador of India to the Philippines Honorable Navrekha Sharma, our Sponsors, The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Gloria Magazine and all those who have made this event possible. It would not have been possible without all your help, support and dedication.

The essence of Diwali lies in forgetting the turmoil and trials of the past and looking forward to a brighter tomorrow. We wish the same for the Philippines as well as the strong partnership between our two countries.

Wishing one and all a Very Happy Diwali and a Prosperous New Year to come!

RAM SITALDAS (Sgd)
President, Filipino-Indian Chamber of Commerce



The Indian Community has been part of the Philippines for quite some time now and though our DIWALI MELA, we are pleased to showcase the best of Indian culture, music, dance, fashion and food.

This is the first time we are celebrating our Indian New Year in the Philippines with such magnitude and in the heart of the commercial hub - Makati. The Filipino-Indian Chamber of Commerce is proud to help bring India to the forefront of the Philippine scene. We hope our friends, and Filipinos in general, will have a better idea of our Indian culture and heritage through events such as these.

I am grateful for the support of our participants and friends who have made this event a reality.

SURESH DASWANI (Sgd)
Chairman, DIWALI MELA Committee

The Indian community in the Philippines to celebrate 'Diwali Mela' this evening at Glorietta Mall, Ayala Ave., Makati City

Diwali signifies the start of the Indian New Year. Just as the Chinese New Year, the Indian New Year is also based on Lunar Calendar, and the date/day changes each year.

This Evening, the Filipino Indian Chamber of Commerce will be celebrating with the Indian community, our Filipino associates and friends, foreigners and the Filipino public in general our "Mela" and is celebrated with festivity just as we celebrate any "Fiesta".

Indian fashion show, classical and modern dances - by talents from the Filipino and Indian community, video clips and presentation, Indian delicacies, and other special activities would be the highlight of the evening, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The "Festival" is aimed at showcasing the Indian culture and traditions through fashion, songs and dances in the Philippines, which is our adopted country," says Ram Sitaldas, president of the chamber.

The event promises to be as festive and well-attended as last year's festivity held at Baywalk in Manila given the substantial number of Indians in the Philippines.

This year's celebration is open to the public, a chance for Filipinos to show respect for this age-old and revered tradition of their Filipino-Indian brothers, in keeping with the Diwali sentiments of peace, harmony and love.

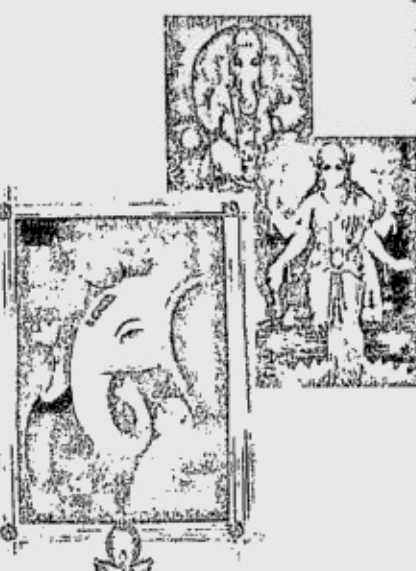
India is regarded as the "Land of Festivals." And of all the festivals which are observed all-year round, Diwali is by far the most glamorous. Its significance to Hindus, even in this modern world, remains untouched amid all the frenzy of shopping and eating. It focuses on the symbolism of the burning light-an illuminated mind.

Indians all over the world are also preparing for the event. The date marks the end of the lunar year which falls on Nov. 1. The celebration of which falls on Oct. 31, the eve of the festival.

Diwali literally means "rows of lighted lamps" and is also called the Festival of Lights. Diwali symbolizes that age-old culture of India which teaches to vanquish ignorance that subdues humility and to drive away darkness that engulfs the light of knowledge.

Every year, on the dark night of Diwali, the sound of firecrackers announces the celebration. Homes are decorated with garlands of mango leaves and marigolds, rangolis (an intricate and artistic design or sketch) are drawn to welcome Lakshmi, the Goddess of Wealth, sweets are distributed by everyone, and thousands of diyas (oil lamps) are lit. During the festival, new clothes and jewelry are worn, and at this time, record-high sales of gold, jewelry, gold coins, and even golden biscuits are again expected to hit an all-time high. Festive meals are also prepared for sharing by the revelers.

The ancient story of how Diwali evolved into the biggest and most widely celebrated festival is different in various regions and states of India. In the northern part, it is celebrated as the return of King Rama along with Sita and Lakshmana from his 14 years of exile after killing Ravana, the demon king of Lanka. For the Gujaratis, Marwaris and other business communities, Diwali marks the worship of Goddess Lakshmi and the beginning of the new financial year. For Bengalis, it is the time to worship Goddess Kali or Durga, who represents the power of the Supreme Being that preserves moral order and righteousness in the creation. Durga, also called Divine Mother, protects mankind from evil and misery by destroying evil forces such as selfishness, jealousy, prejudice, hatred, anger and ego. In South India, there are other legends interwoven in the celebration of the Diwali festival. The first legend being the victory of the good over evil where Krishna was challenged by



Narakasura, the demon of hell, with Krishna prevailing and killing the demon.

The Diwali Festival is also celebrated in other parts of the world. Though they are generally observed the same way as it is done in India, some countries do the festivity with some variations.

In other Asian countries like in Japan, people go out into the orchards and gardens and hang lanterns and paper-made hanging structures on the branches of trees. In Singapore, "Little India" on Serangoon Road is decorated with lights, garlands and colorful arches. In Thailand, lamps made of banana leaves are made. Candles, a coin, and incense are placed on them, and these are set afloat on a river. In Malaysia, where Diwali is a public holiday, Hindus invite Malays and Chinese to their homes, and visit their elders to pay homage.

Indians all over the world are also celebrating

Diwali, The Festival of Lights. Today marks the end of the lunar year.

Tomorrow Nov. 1 is the start of the Indian New Year.

Best Wishes and a Very Prosperous New Year from:

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First Mass enshrined in Limasawa

From page A1

their religious heritage.

Virtually every resident helped, through monetary contributions or manual labor, in building the P7-million shrine, Cantillas said.

Some helped clear the steep road snaking up the hill, while others carried sacks of sand or cement during the construction from February to August.

The entire shrine is almost done, save for the landscaping and some finishing touches.

Gratitude

In his homily, the prelate thanked the people of Limasawa for "contributing with open hearts whatever we can give, big or small, to complete

this shrine."

"This is our concrete expression of our gratitude to God for the gift of the Eucharist," he said.

Cantillas said the fund came largely from local contributions. All 41 parishes under his diocese pledged and delivered on half of the expenses. The remainder was raised through contributions from local politicians and other donors, including Filipino communities abroad.

Livelihood

Soft-spoken but charismatic, the bishop, who heads the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' Episcopal Commission on Migrant Workers, also got a hefty donation from

the Limasawa International Foundation in Switzerland.

With their church, the towering symbol of their deep faith, almost completed, residents hope that help would also come in the form of livelihoods and infrastructure.

"Here, resources are limited but the people are very cooperative and religious," the bishop said. "The real problem here is economic development and infrastructure."

A generator powers the entire 632-hectare island only from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Outside of that, very few residents switch to their own generators. Most of them still use lamps.

Houses that line the narrow, semi-paved roads are no better than shanties. Most of them are

made of wood. There are a few bungalows.

Hospital has no doctor

The small, ill-equipped community hospital has had no doctor for about two years now, said resident historian Windsor Pajao, 67.

To move around the island, residents rent motorcycles, "multicabs" and, occasionally, jeepneys. Many still walk unless they want to hop on a single bike with four other people.

Townfolk, mostly fishermen, take a one-hour boat ride across Sogod Bay to sell their catch, usually squid dried under the sun, in Padre Burgos town, Maasin or Surigao province.

The people have kept their bay

clean, maintaining its dark blue waters. Ditto with the coastal road where one can barely see a single piece of litter. Smiles always greet newcomers docking at the "pantalan."

Cantillas is optimistic that Limasawa will be a bustling pilgrimage site, if not a popular tourist spot.

Tourist zone

The island has been a "tourist zone" as declared by the Senate since 1994. But the prelate lamented that there has been very little effort to promote it.

About 450 steps from the site where the new shrine now stands is the "summit of the highest hill" on the island where Magellan planted a huge wooden cross.

Pajao said the original cross was destroyed during the Pacific War. The hill is now a pilgrimage site like the shrine below it.

In the late 1990s, Cantillas said there was a plan to name Cebu the "Vatican of Asia," considering that it was the site of the first Catholic baptism.

Had the plan pushed through, Cebu would have attracted pilgrims from all over the world, sending them too to Limasawa.

It was not clear what happened to the plan, but the bishop decided to settle in the meantime for local pilgrimages to Limasawa.

In his own little way, the prelate wants to shepherd Filipino Catholics to where their faith and hope all began.

Priest summons spirits to join GMA ouster bid

From page A1

of the dead in his zeal to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo from Malacañang.

As the nation prepared to mark All Saints' Day, Reyes yesterday called on the ghosts of dead and martyred Filipinos to haunt Ms Arroyo into resigning over allegations of electoral fraud.

Since street protests have failed to work their magic, Reyes said he was now seeking the help of souls to "enlighten her and prick her conscience."

Tomorrow, Reyes plans to visit the graves of martyrs, including that of the slain militant labor leader Felimon "Ka Popoy" Lagman, at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina to ask for their intercession, the priest said in an interview.

Sensitive ground

He will be joined by followers of the Kubol Pagasa (Tent of Hope), who pray and fast at the People Power Monument in Quezon City for a change in government leadership.

The priest could be treading on sensitive ground as the Roman Catholic Church does not believe, at least officially, in the existence of ghosts.

According to American Jesuit scholar Very Rev. Kevin Michael Quirk, Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston: "Ghosts are popularly understood to be the spirits of deceased persons who linger about in this world, sometimes causing mischief (poltergeists) and other times merely inhabiting a particular place for one reason or another."

No leaving heaven or hell

"Defined as such, the teaching of the Church does not admit the existence of ghosts," he said.

Quirk said that the late Pope Benedict XIV, in his encyclical Benedictus Deus, stated that upon death, "the human soul experiences the particular judgment and is, from there, consigned to heaven, purgatory (on the way to heaven), or hell."

"The human soul never departs from hell; from purgatory it is eventually released to the bliss of heaven," the scholar added.

Communion of saints

"And since there is no release from hell and the release from purgatory is into heaven, the existence of ghosts is ruled out."

Reyes, however, said the Apostle's Creed mentions the communion of saints, which could also refer to the communion of spirits.

"There is a community of the living and the dead," he said.

Reyes also gave credence to the belief of ancient Filipinos that they could communicate with the souls of their departed.

Also yesterday, members of Task Force Detainees of the Philippines gathered at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani to honor those who had fought the Marcos dictatorship.

'Grim reaper'

They lamented what they called the "death of Philippine democracy" under Ms Arroyo's presidency, citing numerous human rights violations committed during her term.

"Ms Arroyo is the Grim Reaper of Philippine democracy," the group said in a statement.

The militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas also got into the Halloween spirit.

Referring to a Philippine Army general accused by militants of the brutal treatment of political dissidents, KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos warned Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan and Ms Arroyo that "the memories of the victims of their orchestrated political killings would haunt them to the end of their days until justice is served."



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METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

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Repairs block flow on Edsa

By Tarra V. Quismundo

MOTORISTS MAY EXPECT SNAIL-paced traffic on portions of Edsa until the middle of this week because of repairs.

Rehabilitation work which began Friday night, may continue until Wednesday on a southbound portion of Edsa and three sections on northbound side, said Rod Sanchez of Metrobase, the 24-hour road monitoring center of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Sanchez said the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) was removing damaged portions of the road and was pouring fresh concrete.

Repairs were made to coincide with the long All Saints Day and All Souls Day weekend when less traffic was expected on Edsa, said Sanchez.

In cemeteries

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said many motorists were expected to be in or around cemeteries until tomorrow.

The laying of new pavement is ongoing on the two middle lanes of Edsa's southbound side, past the Metro Rail Transit's Guadalupe station. The outermost lane, reserved for buses and the innermost lane for exclusive use of private vehicles remained passable.

Traffic buildup was observed on the southbound lane yesterday. Sanchez said that, at its worst, vehicles were backed up to Ortigas Avenue.

Northbound, two outer lanes of Edsa near the Forbes Park gate across Gil Puyat Avenue (formerly Buendia) are being repaired.

Traffic was backed up from Gil Puyat to Ayala Avenue.

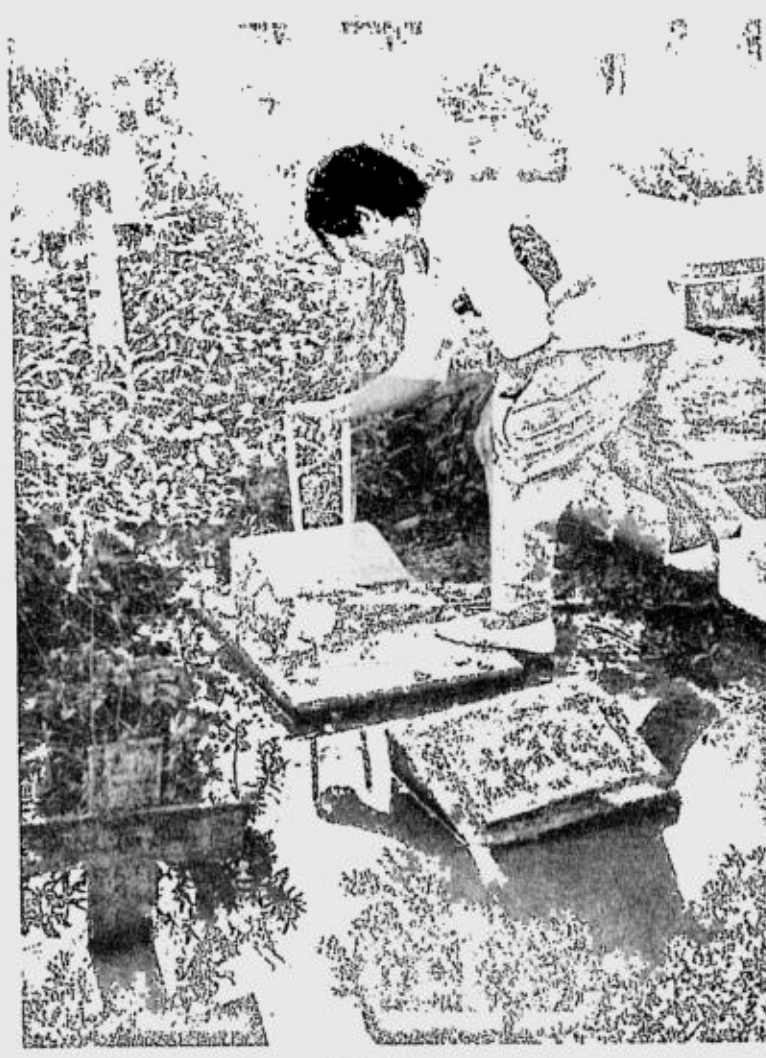
Near Shaw Boulevard

Meanwhile, repair on the service road near Shaw Boulevard and Shangri-La Mall reduced it to a single lane. However, Sanchez, said traffic was not as problematic since motorists could use the underpass to bypass the construction area.

Concrete has been laid on these sections said Sanchez, and motorists should only wait for the cement to dry. The closed lanes may remain impassable for at least two more days to allow the cement to dry fully.

In the meantime, motorists going from southern Metro Manila to Quezon City may use C5 Road, said Sanchez. Those coming from Makati City may take Ayala Avenue straight to McKinley Road, toward C5 Road to their destination. Southbound vehicles may likewise use C5 Road to avoid the Edsa-Gil Puyat Avenue intersection.

Land of dead, land of the living



A LONE visitor to this part of the Manila South Cemetery lights a candle and offers flowers on the grave of a departed loved one. Many tombs at the place, which has been submerged in ankle-deep water due to recent rain, have been left uncleaned even as All Souls Day fast approaches.

RAFFY LERMA

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Tarra V. Quismundo

LEAVE THAT BEER AT HOME IF you plan to go to the cemetery for the remembrance of your loved ones.

In fact, any form of liquor, guns, knives and even gambling paraphernalia should not be brought to gravesites, police said.

In eastern Metro Manila, lawmen and barangay watchmen would be checking bags and frisking people entering cemeteries to make sure none of these things are brought inside.

Eastern Police District director Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela said they would be stricter in enforcing security this year because of terror threats.

About 1,500 policemen will be deployed to secure 14 cemeteries in the cities of Mandaluyong, Marikina, Pasig and the town of San Juan.

Lawmen were deployed as early as yesterday morning at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City, the biggest cemetery in the eastern metropolis, said city police chief Sr. Supt. Manuel Gaerlan.

People have begun swarming to the cemetery yesterday noon, jamming traffic around the park.

To bring order to the trip to Loyola, authorities have begun implementing a rerouting plan.

Those entering the cemetery will have to use Gate 2 inside

Makati Traffic Plan Closed to traffic

• Kalayaan Ave. from Zapote to Nicanor Garcia (formerly Reposo); Nicanor Garcia from J.P. Rizal to Kalayaan; South Avenue from J.P. Rizal to Metropolitan Avenue; Pablo Ocampo Extension (formerly Vito Cruz) from South Avenue to Zapote Street; Pillilla Street from J.P. Rizal to Kalayaan Avenue.

Passable roads

• J.P. Rizal, two-way from Makati Avenue to Trabajo, then one-way eastbound from Chino Roces (Pasong Tamo) to Trabajo;
• Chino Roces, normal traffic; Hippodromo, one-way westbound;
• Nicanor Garcia, one-way northbound from Jupiter/Metropolitan to Kalayaan, and two-way flow from Jupiter to Gil Puyat Avenue.
• Metropolitan, one-way eastbound from Ayala Extension to Nicanor Garcia; and
• Kamagong, normal one-way eastbound from Zobel Roxas to Ayala Extension.

Source: Makati Information and Community Relations Department

Barangay Barangka while those going out of the cemetery will have to exit through Gate 1.

"People should be ready for some inconvenience," Gaerlan said.

He said patience would be

needed for the expected traffic as well as for the long queues of people going through inspection.

At the same time, Valenzuela advised residents not to leave their houses unattended to avoid falling prey to thieves.

Over in Makati City, the police will be spread out to secure cemeteries, residential areas, and malls during the commemoration of All Saints and All Souls Days, said Supt. Efren Ysulat.

Ysulat, Makati Police Department (MPD) officer-in-charge, said patrol cars would do the rounds of residential communities to prevent burglaries.

Patrols will also be conducted within the Ayala Center, he added.

MPD operations chief Supt. Felipe Napoles Jr., said that beginning today policemen would be guarding the Manila South Cemetery and the Makati Catholic Cemetery.

Secret marshals will watch out for unruly or drunk cemetery visitors, gamblers, or those selling liquor within the cemeteries.

At the cemetery gates, inspections will be done to seize guns, knives, and any sharp tools.

The Makati Health Department, the Makati Rescue, and the DPS will be on 24-hour standby to provide emergency assistance, City Hall announced Friday.

Wooden stairs have been built to provide alternative entry points to visitors.

QC vendors urged to expand trade

PRODUCTION RESULTS in better yield.

That was the encouragement which Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. gave 51 graduates of the city's "Usad Negosyo Project" concluded recently.

The project was aimed at teaching participants the basics of management to help them expand their own businesses.

Belmonte told the graduates, mostly small traders and vendors, not to be content with just being buyers or sellers.

Small traders

"The majority of our entrepreneurs are hardworking but they continue to be small vendors and traders," Belmonte said.

"Only some 10 to 15 percent of you venture into service and manufacturing businesses, where there are greater chances for expansion and corresponding increase in income," he told the first batch of project

participants.

The project provides a select group of small entrepreneurs with proper skills development and business management training.

It is a joint project of the Quezon City Task Force Sikap Buhay, the Thames International School of Business-Entrepreneur School of Asia Development Foundation and Akbayan party-list.

Addressing the graduates, Belmonte said: "We want you to become producers and to reach a higher level of entrepreneurship," he added.

Akbayan pledged P1.5 million from its congressional priority development assistance fund for the project, said Task Force Sikap Buhay chief La Rainne Abad-Sarmiento.

Thames-ESADF, on the other hand, is providing the venue and training.

The training for the second batch has begun.

Obando trash welcome in Tanza

By Nancy C. Carvajal

EXTENDING A HAND OF REconciliation to neighboring Obando, Mayor Toby Tiangco has reiterated his consent to the request of the Bulacan town's barangay leaders for the use of the Navotas controlled disposal facility in Tanza.

Tiangco reiterated his consent after winning an injunction against Obando fishermen who had been blocking the entry of trash barges to the Navotas dump.

"With the court's decision and in good faith, I am more than willing to let them use the disposal facility in baran-

gay Tanza," Tiangco said.

A Bulacan court recently ordered those opposing the continued operation of the disposal facility to refrain from blocking Philippine Ecology System (Phileco) barges transporting garbage from Manila's North Harbor.

For the past months, fisher groups barricaded the Binuangan River and effectively blocked the barges.

Tiangco said Obando's league of barangays had asked him and Phileco, which ran and managed the dump, to "allow their use of the disposal facility."

"They also have disposal problems and I would like to

be of help," Tiangco said.

The barangay leaders Tiangco said, had passed a resolution dated Jan. 21 and signed by the barangay leaders for Mayor Zoilito Santiago to seek their approval for the use of disposal facility.

"In principle I agreed to their request but it should have the conformity of Mayor Santiago," Tiangco said.

Meanwhile, the reopening of the Montalban Solid Waste Disposal Facility in Rodriguez, Rizal, was met with sadness by an environmentalist group.

The Bangon Kalikasan Movement is seeking a permanent closure of the dump.

With Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Gregorio Lucas; 76

GREGORIO FRANCISCO LUCAS DIED ON OCT. 27, 2005, at his home in Tugatog, Malabon.

Born on May 28, 1929, Lucas was 76 years old.

He is survived by his wife Felicisima, children Rene and Au, Boy and Cheng, Lito and Jing, Noemi and Criss, Fr. Oscar, Edwin and Mau.

His grandchildren are Gilbert, Guia, Gizelle, Gladys, Samantha, Chesko, Maui, Carmel, Blanca and Choy.

His body lies at Arlington Memorial Chapels in Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Lucas will be buried on Nov. 4, Friday, at Himayang Pilipino in Quezon City after a 9 a.m. Mass at Arlington.

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■ Sy seeks
big AF3
encore in
Batangas
/A26

WHAT'S INSIDE



■ Davao
booters
blank NCR,
nail finals
berth /A27

Gin Kings pin 4th straight loss on SLR

By June Navarro

MARK CAGUIOA GOT BACK AT ALEX CABAGNOT as Barangay Ginebra streaked past Sta. Lucia Realty, 96-89, last night in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the oven-hot Araneta Coliseum.

Caguioa pumped in 19 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as he took the cudgels for the injured Jayjay Helterbrand and sparked the Gin Kings to their fourth win in seven games.

"If you're going to compare me with him (Cabagnot), he could have at least put up a decent fight," said Caguioa. "But

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(Cuneta Astrodome)
4:40 p.m.—Alaska vs Red Bull
7:25 p.m.—SMB vs Ginebra

he never did. The matchup that people had been waiting for never really happened. Just look at the statistics."

Obviously pressured, Cabag-

not, the No. 2 draft pick this year, was cold throughout, ending up scoreless after going 0 of 4 from the field in 21 minutes.

"We were humiliated the last time we played (against each other)," said Caguioa, who played for Eagle Rock High School in California, Cabagnot's alma mater. "This time, I got even."

Caguioa pointed out that Cabagnot broke in four years the scoring record he set in two.

In the second game, Damien Cantrell came up with 17 points and 17 rebounds as Talk 'N Text snapped Purefoods Chunkee's four-game streak, 96-82, to reclaim the solo leadership at 5-1. The Giants dropped to 5-2.

Helterbrand sat out the game as he was nursing a strained right hamstring he suffered in Ginebra's victory over Talk 'N Text last week.

The Big Dome's airconditioning system conked out, but Sean Lampley still came up big, scoring 27 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

The Realtors fell to their fifth loss in seven games.

The scores:

First Game

GINEBRA 96—Lampley 27, Caguioa 19, Adducul 11, Menk 11, Santos 11, Salvacion 8, Ferrera 4, Echavez 3, Helper 2, Solito 0.

STA. LUCIA 89—Weaver 26, Espino 17, Mendoza 16, Calimang 13, Tolomia 4, Duremdes 4, Aquino 4, Catil 3, Cabagnot 0, Ormolen 0, Sta. Maria 0.

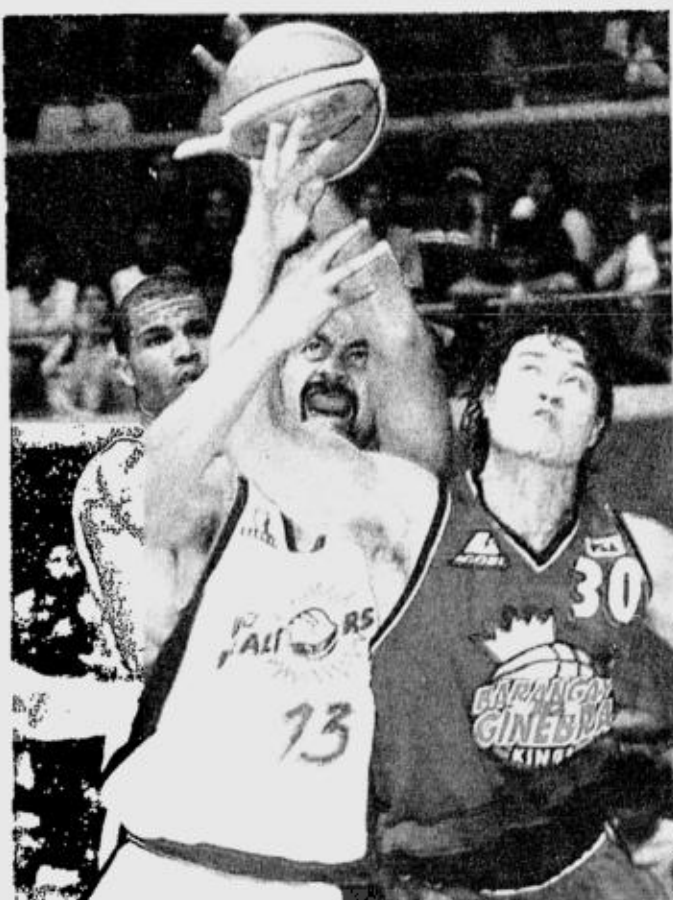
Quarters: 22-29, 50-46, 70-46, 70-62, 96-89

Second Game

TNT 96—Cantrell 17, Pablo 17, Miller 13, Taulava 12, Averido 11, Alapag 10, Carey 8, Telan 5, Cardona 3, Washington 0.

PUREFOODS 82—Yap 22, Salvador 20, Raymundo 14, Castillo 6, Chandler 5, Yap 5, Simon 4, Artadi 2, Billones 2, Yee 2, Pingris 0, Laure 0.

Quarters: 21-20, 36-44, 72-65, 96-82



GINEBRA'S Erik Menk (right) and Sta. Lucia's Marlou Aquino dispute possession, as Sean Lampley looks on.

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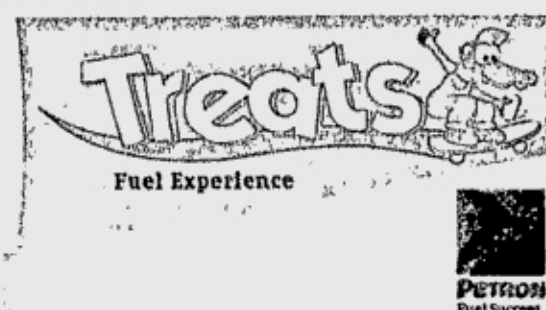
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MEDAL STANDINGS	G	S	B
Manila	80	63	54
Laguna	36	22	19
Parañaque	18	15	11
Quezon City	17	22	20
Muntinlupa	16	12	12
Gen Santos	6	13	10
Baguio	6	9	6
Naga City	5	0	0
Bohol	3	15	20
P. Princessa	3	8	8
Candon City	3	6	4
Taguig	3	4	2
SF, La Union	3	2	9
Tanauan, Bets	3	1	4
Misamis Oos	2	3	7
Bulacan	1	1	6
Tuguegarao	0	1	0
Antipolo	0	0	1
Olongapo	0	0	1

Manila athletes dominant up to the end

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MANILA, ALREADY UNCHALLENGED in athletics and swimming, completed its domination of the inaugural Manila Youth Games National Invitational with another romp in taekwondo yesterday at the San Andres Gym.

With the race for the overall title long a foregone conclusion, Manila won six of the first nine gold medals disputed in taekwondo and went on to finish with a collection of 80 gold, 63 silver and 54 bronze medals.

Laguna was a far second with a 36-22-19 gold-silver-bronze count after hacking out 13 triumphs in swimming and 19 in athletics.

After creating ripples early with victories in softball, Little League baseball and football, Parañaque City, Quezon City and Muntinlupa City wound up in a three-way race for third overall.

Parañaque went on to emerge No. 3 with a harvest of 18-15-11, followed by Quezon City (17-22-20) and Muntinlupa City (16-12-12).

Clarence Virtudazo led the Big

City jins by ruling the boys' heavy-weight category, even as his sister Christine claimed the girls' junior middleweight title.

Also capturing golds for Manila were Arvin Orbenza in the 144-152 cm class, Billy Ullidan (160-165cm), Ronnel Gonzales (120-128cm) and John Resaba (136-144cm).

"Manila really prepared hard for this tournament," said Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza. "I'm very happy to see athletes from other LGUs doing well in this tournament."

The meet's fastest girl, Maria Cecilia Constantino of Laguna, was named the Best Athlete after winning five gold medals in track and field in the girls' 13-15 division. She topped the 100-meter, 200m and 400m races and was part of the province's 4x100m and 4x400m champion relay teams.

Manila also finished strong on the final day in swimming, taking 10 of the 30 gold medals at stake at the Rizal Memorial swimming pool.

That dominance was well exemplified by multiple gold medal win-

ners Apryl Herrera, Tessa Alcantara and Maxim Quilala, who captured five gold medals each in their respective categories.

Competing in the girls' 17-under division, Herrera, winner in the 50m breaststroke, 50m freestyle, 50m butterfly and 100m breaststroke, added the 50m backstroke with a time of 34.09.

The event was presented by Globe Telecom, Pagcor, SMC, PAL, Super Ferry, Milo, Unilever, Speedo, Red Bull, LandBank, Isuzu Manila, IntraSport and Concept Movers.

Sy seeks big AF3 encore in Batangas

HAVING CRASHED THE WINNERS' CIRCLE WITH A GOLDEN DOUBLE IN Indonesia last September, Filipino young gun Tyson Sy goes for an encore before his countrymen when the last two rounds of the Asian Formula Three Grand Prix are held on Nov. 6 at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

His only wish is for series leader Ananda Mikola of Indonesia to make a fight—rather a race—of it.

"If Ananda wants, he can coast to a fourth place finish, even fifth, in both races and still win the overall crown," said the 18-year-old Sy. "I hope he goes into the race determined to win, just like I am."

With 127 points and a 26-point lead, the Indon ace can opt to play it safe and still win the championship.

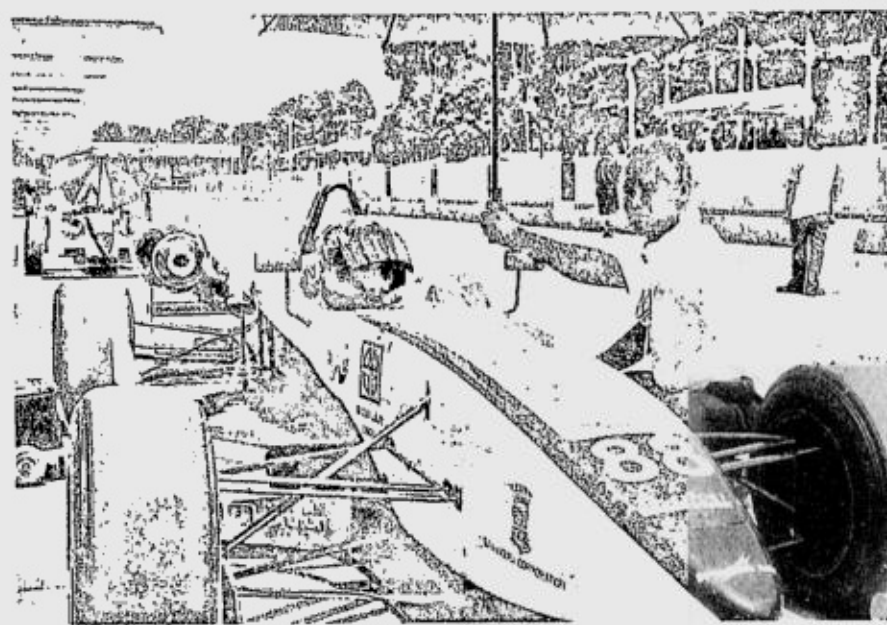
Each win is worth 20 points, with second place worth 15, third 12, fourth 10 and fifth 8.

Even if Sy, who has 101 points, wins

both races, the most he can garner is 141 points. Mikola, with a pair of fifth place finishes worth a combined 16 points, will still win with a 143 total.

Both races, sponsored by Addict Mobile, PLDT myDSL, Boysen Paints, Yokohama Tires and Lima Hotel, will be seen live on Studio 23, with the first race set at 10:30 a.m. to noon and the second race from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Racing enthusiasts can log on to www.asian3.net and www.mypad.net for regular updates.

Mikola, of Pastron Racing with Threebond, has made it clear he wants to "race," having called on the support of some 300



SY braces for the flagoff during the Indonesian leg of the AF3 Grand Prix last month.

Indon students based in the Philippines to give him a boost come race day.

He did the same last April, when the opening two rounds were also held at the BRC and, cheered by his countrymen, opened the season with two big wins.

Another Filipino young gun, Dado Peña, 18, intends to finish the season on a high note and is raring to duplicate what Sy recorded at the Sentul International Circuit in Indonesia last Sept. 18.

"I intend to push hard," said Peña, riding for Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia, whose best finish this season so far was third place in Zhuhai, China. "I know I

have the best team and the best crew. My season has been up and down but I want to finish this one on a high note."

He is not averse, however, to giving Sy, of Speedtech Asia, a helping hand, noting that a compatriot is in contention for victory.

Peña is running fifth in the overall race with 75 points, behind Irishman John O'Hara of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO (79) and Briton James Winslow, also of Shell Helix, with 100 points.

Sy is also wary of Winslow, aware the Briton is also gunning for a double victory and a chance to crown himself the winner of this year's race.

Hapee gets ready for sparkling PBL return

HAPEE TOOTH PASTE RETURNS TO COMPETITIVE Philippine Basketball League action, taking the core of the Philippine Christian University Dolphins to battle the best in the newly opened Heroes Cup.

After a year's absence, the Lamoian-franchise hopes to bring back its glory days with a team built around the stars of PCU, which won the 2004 NCAA title and placed second this year.

Owned by Cecilio Pedro and Jack Huang, this batch of Teeth Masters will be bannered by former NCAA Most Valuable Player Gabby Espinas.

"The task is difficult, but nothing is impossible," said team manager Bernard Yang. "We have to make do with whatever we have in the team. We'll be happy if we could make it to the Final Four, so for now that will be our mission and we are determined to achieve it."

Although former stalwarts Rich Alvarez, Larry Fonacier and Peter Jun Simon have moved to the PBA, coach Junel Baculi shares Yang's optimism.

The Teeth Masters, for one, are a young, quick and talented squad.

Jason Castro and the rugged but efficient Robert Sanz, veterans like Espinas, are also part of the squad's backbone.

Baculi, also the mentor of the PCU squad in the NCAA, also believes that quickness and defense are enough to make up for Hapee's lack of ceiling.

"We have to use our quickness to shut down our foes," Baculi said. "We have to be patient in our offense and tough on the defensive end."

If we can do both things then we have a good chance of reaching our initial goal."

Aside from the 6-foot-5 Espinas, whose lean frame belies his brute power in the shaded lane, the team also boasts of several prized recruits in Aries Gloria, Mark Moreno and Jefferson Gonzales—all deadly from the 3-point zone.

Expected to provide Espinas support in the middle are Carlos Cecilia, Beau Belga, James Razon and the high-leaping Ian Garrido and Joel Solis.

Cage legend Jun Papa dies of heart attack

By Beth Celis

TWO-TIME BASKETBALL OLYMPIAN ADRIANO "JUN" Papa, one of the finest shooters the country has ever produced, died of a heart attack last Thursday at his Parañaque home. He was 60 years old.

One of the few players who could convert shots from the midcourt line, Papa was discovered by fellow Olympian Narciso Bernardo while playing for National University.

Although the Bulldogs were hardly a force to reckon with at the time, the 5-foot-11 forward stood head and shoulders above the rest as he was immediately invited by coach Fely Fajardo to join the fabled Yco Painters squad after only one UAAP season.

In addition to Yco, Papa also played for Ysmael Steel and the star-studded Crispa team in the Micaa, where he earned the monicker "Rifleman."

A feared gunner in the Asian region, Papa also came to be known as Shin Dong Papa, after he outscored South Korean shooting legend Shin Dong-pa in an ABC encounter.

Papa was a member of the vaunted "Dirty Dozen" team that captured the 1967 ABC championship in Seoul. He was also in the national squad that saw action in the 1971 Tokyo ABC, the 1970 Bangkok Asiad, the 1968 Mexico Olympics and the 1972 Munich Olympics, where the country finished 13th.

In 1977, he earned a spot in the PBA Mythical Team

alongside Mon Fernandez, Robert Jaworski, Atoy Co and Freddie Hubalde, that year's MVP.

Although he had diabetes and thyroid problems, Papa's wife Waffles said the cager was in relatively good health before the attack.

She said her husband had a premonition he was going to die. Two weeks ago, they came across a streamer advertising coffin rental and cremation.

"He told me he wanted that package when he dies, *para daw hindi na magastos at magulo*," Waffles said.

She said Jun woke up at about 3 a.m. last Thursday complaining of difficulty in breathing.

Jun and Waffles have four children (Bradley, Michael, Addy and Charmaine) and five grandchildren.

No circus for the Rifleman, 60

GIVE MY SINS TO THE DEVIL, IF YOU WANT to remember me, do it with a kind deed, feed a hungry child, help the needy, give hope, and I shall live forever.

With that borrowed line, inscribed on a boyhood friend's forgotten grave in our rain-faded village, please also say a prayer for Adriano Papa Jr. who passed away on Thursday and was cremated that same afternoon.

Light a candle in the dark. Adriano Papa Jr. was Jun Papa, cool, plumpish RP basketball great, one of the finest, if not the greatest, pure shooters the sport has produced, not only in the Philippines but also in the entire Asian region.

Papa was a two-time Olympian (Mexico '68 and Munich '72) whose inborn poise and sharpness on the hardcourt had been a model for countless young copycats of his time.

His body was endowed with a graceful basketball grammar that was perfectly natural.

You ever heard of Jun Papa after he retired?

Unlike his peers, former senator Robert Jaworski and the sensational Danny Florencio, to name only two, Papa faded completely from the basketball scene after he left the game.

Fans will remember him fondly as a member of the fabulous Crispa Redmanizers, he of the Beatie hairdo whose full eyes were always set to smile.

Papa's commercial stints, however, covered both the Micaa (Manila Industrial Commercial Athletic Association) where he played for the two top clubs, Ysmael Steel and Yco, and the Philippine Basketball Association (Mythical Five 1977) where he also donned the jerseys of Mariwasa and Filmanbank.

He was branded as the Rifleman, with a 17.5-point scoring average, ranked among the top 15 in the PBA all-time list; although he had scored mostly from the rainbow territory, or even farther, when the 3-point shot was not yet honored in the local pro league.

That meant he could've readily moved among the all-time Top 10 scorers given today's 3-point credit, said freedom writer Joey Papa, Jun Papa's first cousin, who served time

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad



as political prisoner at Ft. Bonifacio during the Marcos years.

The cousin said Jun must've suffered a heart seizure.

"His wife said Jun had been detected to be suffering from diabetes," Joey told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He said Papa passed away at 5 a.m., Oct. 27 in his residence at the Fourth Estate Subdivision in Sucat, Parañaque. His ashes have been enshrined at home, as Papa had wished.

Papa grew up on Basilio St. in Sampaloc, resided in Pandacan during the early years of his marriage, before retiring in Parañaque.

He's survived by wife Corazon and four children, Michael, Adriano, Bradley and Charmaine. Adriano, who had a brief stint with Sta. Lucia in the PBA, is now in the coaching staff of a collegiate outfit.

Joey Papa said his gifted cousin was originally being groomed to be a swimmer. Papa's younger sister, in fact, had gone on to become a mainstay of the RP swimming team that won a bronze medal in dramatic fashion at the 1970 Bangkok Asian Games.

Jun Papa also played under coach Baby Dalupan for the RP team in that same Asian Games, his second straight Asiad after his first in 1966 under Fely Fajardo.

It was said that it was Olympian Big Boy Reynoso who discovered him in an outside league.

This reporter, however, had a first glimpse of Jun Papa, the cager, while the lean, 5-foot-11 aspirant was trying out with the Ysmael Steel Admirals out of National U.

Olympian Narciso Bernardo included him as a guest player of the Namayan team in the Mandaluyong Inter-barrio tournament at San Felipe Neri patio court in the mid-'60s.

Entirely unknown to the fans, the skinny,

crop-headed Papa awed the whole town with his nifty scoring prowess.

His name became a byword in all the other places where he would play.

Needless to say, he shot up to become a top Admiral and eventually stepped into the main swirl of RP basketball.

"What I distinctly remember was how he taught me shooting techniques, we used a goal with no board whatsoever, just a rim on a solitary post," said Joey Papa, who added these sessions were conducted in the old Papa backyard on Basilio around Dapitan, Manila.

No, Jun Papa did not actually turn into a recluse.

He momentarily tried his luck in the United States.

But he actually worked in the staff of former Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, a great fan of Jun Papa, the basketball star.

Nothing much had been heard of the retired rifleman. There would, however, be reported sightings in dart parlors where, it would turn out, he had also become a feared competitor.

Anyway, count this as an accolade: he was also fondly called Shin Dong Papa, after Mr. Shin, the world-renowned South Korean shooting wonder, a nemesis of RP teams in the late '60s and early '70s.

The truth is, added his cousin Joey the writer, Jun Papa left the basketball scene at a time when he could still play against the best out there.

"I remember Jun telling me why he suddenly left basketball, he said he felt like a robot inside the court, tiring routine—dribble, pass, shoot—he wanted something new," bared Joey Papa.

Yes, Jun Papa could still be very useful, but he must've felt he was no longer helping the game.

He hated to be a nuisance. Unfortunately, this cannot be said of many other PBA campaigners, veterans and newcomers alike, who continue to turn the pro league into a cheap circus.

(Close friends of Jun Papa may call his wife, Waffles, at tel. 826-6622.)

Gerald closes out with 75; Jennifer ends up joint 35th

FILIPINO GERALD ROSALES ENDED up tied for 43rd spot in the Hero Honda Indian Open won by Thai star Thaworn Wiratchant after closing with a three-over 75 yesterday.

Rosales submitted a second straight over-par round, wobbling to a nine-over tally in the Asian Tour event.

Wiratchant, the Order of Merit leader going into this tournament, signed for a 70 and a 16-under 272 total to hold off local bet Gaurav Ghehi by two strokes.

In Jeju, South Korea, Jennifer Rosales wound up in joint 35th spot in the CJ Nine Bridges tournament after two-over-par 74 at The Club at Nine Bridges.

Jennifer tallied a 54-hole total of 10-over-par 226, 15 shots behind winner Jee Young Lee.

Lee scrambled for a second straight 73 but still posted a three-stroke victory over Carin Kock, who signed for a 71 for 214.

Dorothy Delasin, the other Filipino in the LPGA event, shot 75 for 225.

Mamaril elected Jungolf president

BUSINESSMAN GENEROSO "Bang" Mamaril was elected president of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines recently.

Mamaril, father of jungolfers Junro and Jordan, ran unopposed. He vowed to continue with the big gains made by the Jungolf talent development program in recent years which has seen local players bring home more than a dozen international trophies, including three Junior World titles.

Gerry Handog and Philip de Claro were reelected for two more two-year terms as directors, while Tony Arevalo and Dante Reyes also made it to the new board.

The new set of officers for 2006 is headed by chair emeritus Amalia Montecillo, with Mamaril as president, Raymond Mendoza, vice president, Vannie Monsalve, exec-

utive director; Susan Paglin, corporate secretary; Rosario Rodriguez, treasurer; Reyes, internal auditor; Handog, director for international affairs and Jay Aranas, Oscar Bunyi, Tacho dela Paz, Raoul Lachica, Sonny Yee, Arevalo and De Claro as directors.

Coinciding with the election of officers was Jungolf's monthly tournament at the Riviera Sports and Country Club's executive course.

The boys' winners were Quino Baterna in Class A, Christopher dela Cruz (Class B), Remo Fueg (Class C), Daniel Ekegron (Class D), Tonton Arevalo (Class E) and Lanz Uy (Class F). The girls' winners were Frances Bawal (Class A), Ann Sabater (Class C), Andie Unson (Class D), Kim Mingi (Class E) and Abigail Arevalo (Class F).

UNDER-19 NATIONALS

Davao booters blank NCR, nail finals berth

BAGO CITY—STREAKING defending champion Davao shut out tournament darkhorse National Capital Region, 2-0, in the semifinals Sunday and moved closer to its second straight title of the PFF-Adidas U-19 National Youth Championship at the Manuel Torres Sports Center pitch here.

The Davaoños, who won the same event last year in Cebu City, exploited their man advantage in breaking down the defense of the Big City booters, who lost defender Jason Cordova in the third minute after he was sent off for abusive language.

After several missed opportunities, Davao finally broke through in the 40th minute when defender Napoleon Nidea's neatly placed penalty kick beat NCR keeper Aris Mantos, who had fouled a streaking Ramel Sali inside the box.

Johnny Victor Molinos, the hero in Davao's 1-0 win over Negros Friday, put the outcome beyond doubt by booting in the second goal with three minutes left.

Despite the win, Davao coach Ramonito Carreon was not satisfied with his team's performance.

"We had a lot of opportunities, but our passing was poor," he said.



ZAMBOANGA'S Finn Bryan Gumela (left) harasses Masbate's Danilo Camre in their no-bearing match. Masbate won the game, 6-1, between two sides that failed to reach the final four.

The winner of the Negros-Iloilo semifinal duel set late yesterday will face Davao for the championship today.

NCR turned up the pressure early in the second half and had its best chance in the 65th minute when Francis Gustilo wiggled through

three defenders, but saw his shot go wide.

Gustilo also struck a curling free kick from 25 yards out in the 70th minute that was stopped by the fingertips of Davao keeper Al-adel Salda.

The match again drew a banner

gallery that included Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez.

The tournament is supported by PFF sponsor-partners Red Ribbon Bakeshop, Pagcor Sports, 2Go and the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

Gorres halts Thai in 3rd; Domingo keeps RP crown

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

MANDAUE CITY—Z "THE DREAM" Gorres easily dispatched Thailand's Wisanu Pornobnum with a third round technical knockout win in their OPBF eliminator fight headlining the "Fight for Fame" card Saturday night at the Mandaue Cultural and Sports Complex.

The end came in 1 minute 36 seconds with Pornobnum sprawled on the canvas for the second time in the third round.

Gorres, the OPBF No. 1, had earlier knocked down the Thai with a vicious uppercut.

The stylish Cebuano fighter, who punished the Thai in the first two rounds with sharp, quick punches, improved his record to 21 wins (12 KOs) against a loss and a draw.

Sportsman Antonio L. Aldeguez, Gorres' manager, said his ward is scheduled to see action in the US in January in a card that will be promoted by Guilty Boxing before fighting for the OPBF 115-lb title, most likely against Waengpetch Chuwatana of Thailand.

In the chief undercard, Michael Domingo of the SSG stable retained his Philippine bantamweight title by unanimous decision over Rolly Lunas of the Wakee Salud Stable.

ALA Boy Rollen del Castillo ham-



GORRES: Lopsided victory

mered out another unanimous decision verdict over the formerly undefeated Wakee Salud bet Alex Aroy in the top 10-rounder.

In the other tenners, ALA Gym's Robert Allanic prevailed over Elorde Stable's Roy Doliguez by majority decision while the comebacking Rocky Fuentes of ALA stable won by unanimous decision over Bert Gawat.

Winnie Bartiquil of Cagayan de Oro won by split decision over Jojo Intor (ALA); Milan Melindo prevailed by UD over Juaren Libre in 4 rounds; and Alberto Yap of ALA Gym won by UD over Ali Marapao of Bislig in the 4-round curtain-raiser.

San Carlos, Bosco cagers win twice

BACOLOD CITY—CEBU'S UNIVERSITY OF San Carlos and Don Bosco College posted two victories each Saturday at the start of the two-day Visayas regionals youth basketball finals at the Negros Occidental multipurpose gym here.

USC whipped Ateneo de Iloilo, 37-22, and St. John's Institute, 43-22, in the SBP (Small Basketeers Philippines) division while Don Bosco nipped University of St. La Salle, 45-42 and Ateneo de Iloilo, 71-64, in the Passerelle

class tournament.

The concluding matches of the tournament organized by BEST Center and sponsored by Milo were being played at presstime yesterday.

The scores:

DON BOSCO 45—Tan 9, Dela Torre 7, Rodriguez 6, Parilla 5, Diaz 4, Bacalso 4, Lapitan 3, Mellana 3, Bellina 2, Escano 2, Paracuelles 0, Garclano 0, Parcon 0, Reroma 0, Gavison 0.

LA SALLE 42—Dumancas 8, Dela Paz 6, Anglo 4, Noyu-

man 4, Lupinao 3, Golez 3, Sayson 2, Reyes 2, Gamboa 2, Melocuton 2, Ravina 2, Henares 2, Blance 2, Castor 0, Jalandon 0.

USC 43—Juarez 10, Nazareno 8, Nwanaka 6, Purisma 4, Cuizon 4, Bacaltos 2, Secapure 2, Isidro 2, Naron 2, Ortega 2, Pestano 1, Uy 0, Nazareno 0, Sevileno 0, Majan 0.

ST. JOHN 22—Dionera 6, Banzon 6, Ballesteros 2, Suarez 2, Solivio 2, Cuaycong 2, Chua 2, Arguelles 0, Dusanban 0, Calangan 0, Dy 0, Arroyo 0, Co 0, De Leon 0, Yusay 0. Halftime: 22-10.

Stop importation of fighting cocks

(MARAMING SALAMAT PO. In behalf of my late son Joaquin "Jackie" Ifigo, I would like to thank other friends who offered their deepest sympathies: Bulacan Rep. Neneng Nicolas, former Marilao Mayor Nonoy Duran, Rep. Willie Alvarado, the family of Willie Natividad, son of former Marilao Vice Mayor Esteban Natividad Jr.; Romy and Nene Lacuna, Conrado "Totoy" Santos, Hernan and Aileen Lacuna-Saringan, Remy and Addie San Luis, Pancho and Josie Manalad, Junior and Carmen Ifigo and their children, Jay, Jeremy and Jan-Jan, Jeff and Joy and Henry, the Gabiosa family, Boy Pengson, former Bulacan board member Ery Duran, former Manila's Finest Romy Nuez, the Santiago family of Lolomboy, Bocaue, Bulacan; Minitang Agapito of Kainan kay Aling Nene, Kapitan Oscar Bernardino, Totoy Dimacali's hardworking barangay tanods, fellow columnist Al S. Mendoza and family, Libre editor Chito de la Vega, former POC president Col. Julian Malonso, colleague Recah Trinidad, Dr. Tito Chan, son of my late friend, Dr. Jose O. Chan; Elmer Yanga, Boy Jiao of the National Cockers Association, Dilip Budhrani, Go Teng Kok, Dr. Fernando Carrascoso, Gani Zulueta, FEU's Renato "Boy" Silva and international boxing promoter Jun Sarreal).

ONE WAY TO PREVENT THE ENTRY of the deadly H5N1 bird flu strain into the country is to impose a total ban on the importation of fighting cocks.

I have been told that some moneyed and very influential cockers will be fielding fighting cocks which they bought (or smuggled?) from abroad in forthcoming international derbies here. This is lamentable. Authorities

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Ifigo



must not allow this to happen. They should not be complacent in their campaign to stop the dreaded bird flu virus from reaching our shores. There should be no exception, walang palakasan, walang brasohan, walang suhulan.

Thank God, that an old friend, Agriculture Secretary Domingo "Ding" Pangniban, is now one of those tasked to ensure that the country remains bird flu-free. The Philippines, Singapore and Brunei are the only Southeast Asian countries still free of the bird flu virus, which has killed millions of chickens, ducks and other fowl and poultry.

In the 23rd SEA Games here which will start on Nov. 27, Pangniban said Bureau of Animal Industry Director Davinio Catbagan had asked POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco to impose strict "biosecurity" measures for all visiting athletes, coaches, and support staff from the bird flu-afflicted countries—Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia.

As part of the strict measures, the POC will provide the participating countries with a travel advisory that prohibits the foreign participants from visiting any live poultry facilities in their respective countries at least 72 hours before their scheduled arrival in Manila. Also these visitors are not to

bring into the Philippines any live poultry, wild and domestic poultry meat and other related products. And, upon arrival in Manila, they would have to go through such strict protocol as foot baths and body temperature screening at the airport.

"We must do everything to ensure the H5N1 virus does not enter the country," said Health Secretary Francisco Duque III. "It's very near. It is only a matter of time. It is not a question of 'if' but 'when.'"

The government has earmarked P160 million for the multi-agency campaign to contain the bird flu virus. Duque added the health department would also use a portion of the P1 billion budget allocated for the campaign against SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome).

Bird flu has already killed 62 people, mostly in Vietnam and Thailand, where it was detected in a fighting cock.

In the Philippines, there are thousands, perhaps millions, of game cocks as cockfighting is now the biggest spectator sport among Filipino fans.

Migrating birds could have introduced the virus through their droppings. The virus could also have been passed on to domesticated birds during stop-offs in their annual winter journeys.

Since the start of the bird flu outbreak in Asia, millions of birds have been killed to contain it. Asia is the main source of chickens and ducks, supplying 27 percent of the world's poultry needs. Economic experts say that if bird flu is not contained in the region, it would devastate Asia's poultry industry and leave thousands of people jobless.

Race 1—1. Real Material 2. Jubilee 3. Look of Love 4. Shag Fantasy
Race 2—1. Legally Blonde 2. Daldalera 3. Amarotia 4. Words of Joy
Race 3—1. Rebound 2. Siga na Nga 3. Red Anya 4. Hurry Prince
Race 4—1. Hazit Coming 2. Harrod's Magic 3. Lightning Strike 4. Hang Hang Queen
Race 5—1. Don Ramon 2. Pivotal 3. Ahead of Time 4. Guts
Race 6—1. Blondie Baj 2. Muligan 3. Love Ko To 4. Top Marikeno 5. Head Turner
Race 7—1. Court General 2. Il Amorosa 3. Modern Classic 4. Strelsand
Race 8—1. Queen's Abbey 2. Bunker Buster 3. Singray/Parlet Time 4. Yoshirawa

RACING

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 9—1. Gentleman's Lady 2. Pride of Mandaue 3. Jajile 4. Sir Lawrence 5. Something Silver
Race 10—1. Open Sky 2. Tactical Move 3. Pirouette 4. Expediter
Race 11—1. Holy King 2. Valid Hazm 3. Dolly 4. Heart of Joana
Race 12—1. Sugar Ray 2. Starry Night 3. My Lucky One 4. Reasonable Believer/Simply Gold
Race 13—1. Inca 2. All All All 3. Gold Fever 4. Bundok Paninsula 5. Sharp Cookle 6. Mapagkwento

Chinese pug decisions Brosas for WBE plum

SIX-FOOTER XIA ZHILIN OF CHINA defeated Filipino Carlito Brosas by unanimous decision Saturday night at the Mandaluyong Sports Complex to capture the vacant World Boxing Empire (WBE) Asia Pacific welterweight title.

The three Filipino judges scored the bout 118-110, 116-111 and 115-111, all for Xia.

Xia, the first Chinese to fight in

Southeast Asia, improved his record to 9-2 (win-loss), with 3 knockouts, as he earned the admiration of the crowd for his clean style of fighting.

In the undercard, Jun de Asis (6-4, 3 KOs) won by technical knockout in 2:39 of the sixth round over IBF No. 11 minimumweight contender Ernesto Rubillar (35-28-7, 13 KOs) after the latter injured his elbow.

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The 2005 Yonex-Sunrise Philippines National Open Badminton Championships

FINALS Match Results as of October 30, 2005 (Partial)

Juniors 16 and Under

Boys' Doubles	Dallsay/Babad (PNP-JLTC/Battledore/Chao Pai) def Magnaye/Magnaye (PNP/JLTC)	15-9, 15-9
Girls' Singles	Velez (Golden Shuttle) def Paredes (Golden Shuttle)	11-0, 11-2

Open

Mixed Doubles	Asuncion/Asuncion (Golden Shuttle) def Plencenaves/Obanana (RP Team)	15-9, 15-2
Ladies' Singles	Chiu (RP Team) def Obanana (RP Team)	3-11, 11-2, 11-8
Men' Singles	Asuncion (Golden Shuttle) def Plencenaves (RP Team)	15-5, 15-5
Ladies' Doubles	Asuncion/Obanana (Golden Shuttle Foundation/ RP Team) def Ledesma/Guerrero (RP Team)	15-5, 15-1

Industry Team Event

Media and Entertainment def Utilities and Services	3-2
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2005 Yonex-Sunrise Philippines National Open Badminton Championships Ladies' Singles Awards. L-R: Mr. Jimmy Seth (Director, Sunrise Co Pte Ltd), Karyn Velez, Alma Ledesma (Bronze), Irene Chui (Gold), Paola Obanana (Silver), Mr. Nelson Asuncion, Tournament Director

We should win SEAG overall title on our own merit, says Ramirez

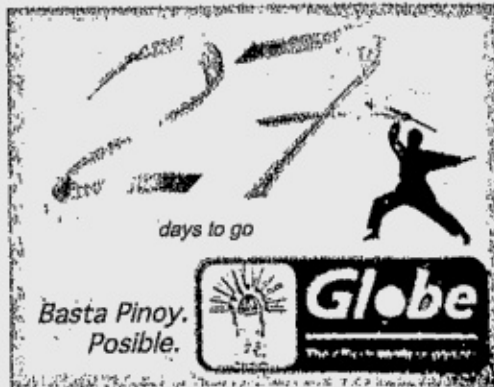
By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES WILL WIN THE OVERALL title of the Southeast Asian Games not because it enjoys the hometown advantage but because the country's athletes are competent.

This was stressed by the Philippine Sports Commission yesterday amid reports that the Philippines is poised to "maximize" its hosting of the SEAG next month to finally secure the overall crown.

PSC chair Butch Ramirez said the national athletes—about 1,000-strong—can hold their own against the best bets from the 10 other SEAG countries.

"The PSC stand is, 'honesty is the best policy' in the quest for sports excellence," said Ramirez, reacting to overseas reports on the Internet that say the host country will try to win the overall championship at all costs.



The hometown factor has been credited for the growing trend in which the host country ends up as overall champion, as in the case of Thailand in 1995, Indonesia in 1997, Malaysia in 2001 and Vietnam in 2003.

A large part of this success is attributed to

the host country's practice of inserting more events where it is likely to win.

But Ramirez said winning outside of their own merit is an insult to Filipino athletes.

"We want the Filipino athletes to win on the basis of their competence and their abilities," said the PSC chair, who also asked for transparency from among sports officials in the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 Games.

"Thus our sports officials must be honest and transparent because success in sports is not only measured by medals but through our character and humanity as well.

"Winning must be worthy and honorable." The Philippines is hosting the Games for the third time since 1981 and 1991. It has never won the overall title.

By comparison, Vietnam highlighted its first hosting of the SEAG two years ago by running away with the overall plum.



JERRY Bailey (in pink jersey) maneuvers Saint Liam out of the jam heading in 2005 Breeders' Cup Classic at Belmont Park in Elmont, New York. Saint Liam

Swede catches Lowery with 67

TORONTO—SWEDEN'S Carl Pettersson fired a four-under-par 67 to join American Steve Lowery at the top of the leaderboard after the third round of the Chrysler Championship in Tampa Bay, Florida on Saturday.

Pettersson, who began the day three shots off the pace, muscled his way into a share of the lead with a tidy outward nine at the Westin Innisbrook Resort's Copperhead course which included four birdies and one bogey.

The 28-year-old Pettersson moved within sight of his first PGA Tour title, carding another birdie on the 10th before closing with eight consecutive pars to finish nine-under on 204.

Lowery, 45, began the day with a two-shot lead but was unable to gain any momentum through a rollercoaster one-under 70 which mixed four birdies with three bogeys.

Another Swede, Daniel Chopra (68), was in a tie for third place with Americans Tom Pernice Jr. (70) and Davis Love III (70) on 207.

World number four Retief Goosen and Britain's Justin Rose slumped to identical five-over 76s for matching totals of 214, one over.

South African Goosen, the 2003 Chrysler champion, registered five bogeys before claiming his first birdie of the day on the par-three 17th. But he then bogeyed the 18th. Reuters

Abucay derby set Saturday

THE BATAAN GAME-fowl Breeders Association stages a 3-cock derby at the Abucay on Nov. 5 with Thunderbird Enerstone as major presenter. A 3-cock Bakbakan elimination is also up at the Tuao Mega cockpit on the same day, which will be organized by the Cagayan Gamefowl Breeders Association. The Isabela Gamefowl Breeders Association, meanwhile, stages its own Bakbakan eliminations at IBC Luna Cockpit on Nov. 9. Action then shifts down south with the Thunderbird Bexan-XP-backed 4-stag battle on Nov. 12 at the Kutang Bato Cockpit in Colabato.

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Saint Liam tops Cup Classic

Bailey guides Horse of the Year favorite to dramatic victory at Belmont

ELMONT, NEW YORK—SAINT LIAM MADE an emphatic claim to secure Horse of the Year honors by winning the Breeders' Cup Classic on Saturday following a dramatic stretch-drive duel with Flower Alley.

Under the guidance of jockey Jerry Bailey, Saint Liam stalked the leaders until going four wide at the top of the stretch to grab the lead from a badly tiring Sun King.

Saint Liam battled Flower Alley before finding another gear to win the \$4 million race at Belmont Park by a length. Perfect Drift grabbed the show spot, 1 1/2 lengths behind Flower Alley.

Despite waging an electrifying mid-stretch battle, where each horse alternately held the lead, Bailey said he peered over at Flower Alley and was not worried.

"I knew I had that horse," he said. "You just don't want anybody to come flying up.

"I knew Borrego can really come with a strong run but it was going to take a magnificent effort to beat him."

Borrego, the second favorite in the race behind Saint Liam, was never a factor, finishing 10th in the 12-horse field.

"He came up firing but then came up empty," said Borrego jockey Garrett Gomez. "He was just flat."

Other disappointments were Irish raider Oratorio (11th) and ex-Australian champion Starcraft (7th).

The 48-year-old Bailey was winless in six races Saturday prior to the Classic but was able to claim his record 15th career—and perhaps last—Breeders' victory.

Bailey said he will ride through late November and then decide if he will retire.

The Classic winner generally has an inside

shot at Horse of the Year honors and that decision was perhaps made easier by the shock defeat of Lost in the Fog in the Breeders' Sprint.

Lost in the Fog entered the race unbeaten in 10 career starts and while a sprinter has never won the Horse of the Year award, it is hard to ignore a horse that has never been beaten.

But Lost in the Fog finished seventh, tiring badly after leading in the stretch.

"It would have been nice to cap it off today but it wasn't meant to be," said trainer Greg Gilchrist. "We prepared the horse as well as we could but he just got outrun today."

Silver Train, with Edgar Prado in the saddle, won the race by a head over Taste of Paradise. The victory was Prado's second of the day, the veteran jockey having already won the Juvenile Fillies aboard Folklore.

Gomez was also a double winner, piloting Ste-

vie Wonderboy in the Juvenile and Artie Schiller in the Mile to victories.

Other winners on a clear but chilly Saturday were German-bred, French-trained Shirocco, who beat off fellow Europeans Ace, Azamour and Bago in the Turf, Pleasant Home in the Distaff, and Intercontinental in the Filly and Mare Turf.

But most in the crowd of 54,289 left talking about Saint Liam, a five-year-old Kentucky-bred bay who won for the fourth time in six starts in 2005.

He captured the 1 1/4-mile Classic in 2:01.49, off the race record of 1:59.02 set by Ghostzapper last year at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie, Texas. Trainer Richard Dutrow is convinced he has the year's top horse despite some who claim it is Afleet Alex, the Preakness and Belmont Stakes winner, who is injured.

Reuters

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Spurs gun for 4th title in 8 years

WASHINGTON—Reigning champion San Antonio will seek a fourth crown in eight years while a host of improved rivals take aim at the Spurs when the National Basketball Association's 60th season begins Tuesday.

The Spurs outlasted Detroit in a dramatic seven-game showdown in June's NBA Finals, but the Pistons remain a threat to dethrone San Antonio along with Miami, Indiana, Phoenix, Denver and Houston.

"They know we didn't kick anybody's butt in the playoffs," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "There are still six, seven teams that can win the championship and we're one of them. But we don't have any illusions about who we are."

Triple threat

Star forward Tim Duncan sparked the Spurs with 20.3 points and 11.1 rebounds a game last season and together with French guard Tony Parker and Argentina playmaker Manu Ginobili nudged San Antonio into a championship.

But foes are gathering. Shaquille O'Neal left behind Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers to make the Miami Heat a contender and Indiana will have Ron Artest returning after an early season brawl dimmed last season's title hopes.

"I told them, 'Shaq wants to win the championship. He wants to prove he can do it without Kobe. Detroit wants to get it back again,'" Popovich said. "It's not like we kicked their (rears) last year."

Key roles

"Indiana was just as good as anybody but they blew it up. And there are three or four teams out West just like those in the East."

The Spurs added veterans Nick Van Exel and Michael Finley, who figure to play key roles off the bench, to the skills of Ginobili, who had 16 points, 4.4 rebounds and 3.9 assists a game, and Parker, who averaged 16.6 points, 6.1 assists and 3.7 rebounds.

"This is the deepest team we've had talent-wise," Popovich said.

AFP

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GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 LEGEND OF ZORRO	2 CINEMANILA	3 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	4 FLIGHTPLAN
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THE 40 YR. OLD VIRGIN	2 FLIGHTPLAN	3 LEGEND OF ZORRO	4 DOOM
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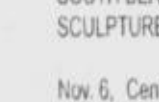
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2 ISPIRITISTA 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	7 LORD OF WAR 12:20 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50	8 MASAHISTA 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
4 MY SASSY GIRL 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00	9 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN 12:00 2:25 5:05 7:45 10:00
5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2 11:10 2:00 4:50 7:50 10:30	10 FLIGHT PLAN Sneak Preview

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1 ISPIRITISTA 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	5 LORD OF WAR 10:30 12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00
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1 FLIGHT PLAN Sneak Preview	5 DOOM 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
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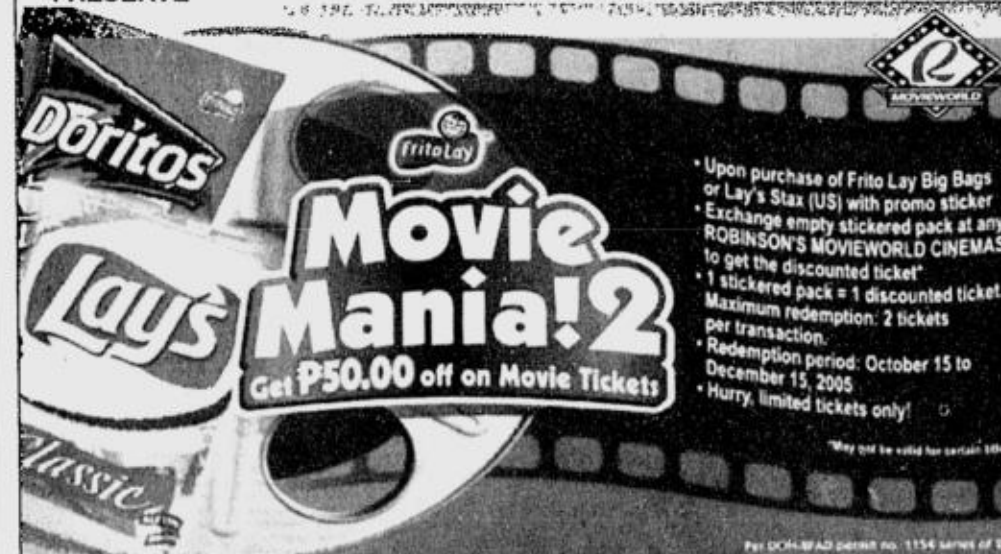
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THE CREAM OF THE crop in Philippine women's tennis will test their skills against foreign counterparts in the US\$10,000 Holcim-ITF Women's Circuit slated Nov. 7-13 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

University of California Los Angeles standout Riza Angela Zalameda, Denise Dy, Anja Vanessa Peter and Czarina Mae Arevalo—the foursome who will represent the country in next month's Southeast Asian Games—are expected to face tough challenge in the 13-nation event sanctioned by the ITF Grand Slam Development Fund.

Zalameda is currently ranked No. 852 in the world and is seeded No. 6 in the tournament behind Korean Lyoo-Suh Hee Sun (697), Briton Rebecca Fong (708), Korean Lee Jin-a (741), Thai Pichitra Thongdach (762) and Taiwanese Chen Yi (776).

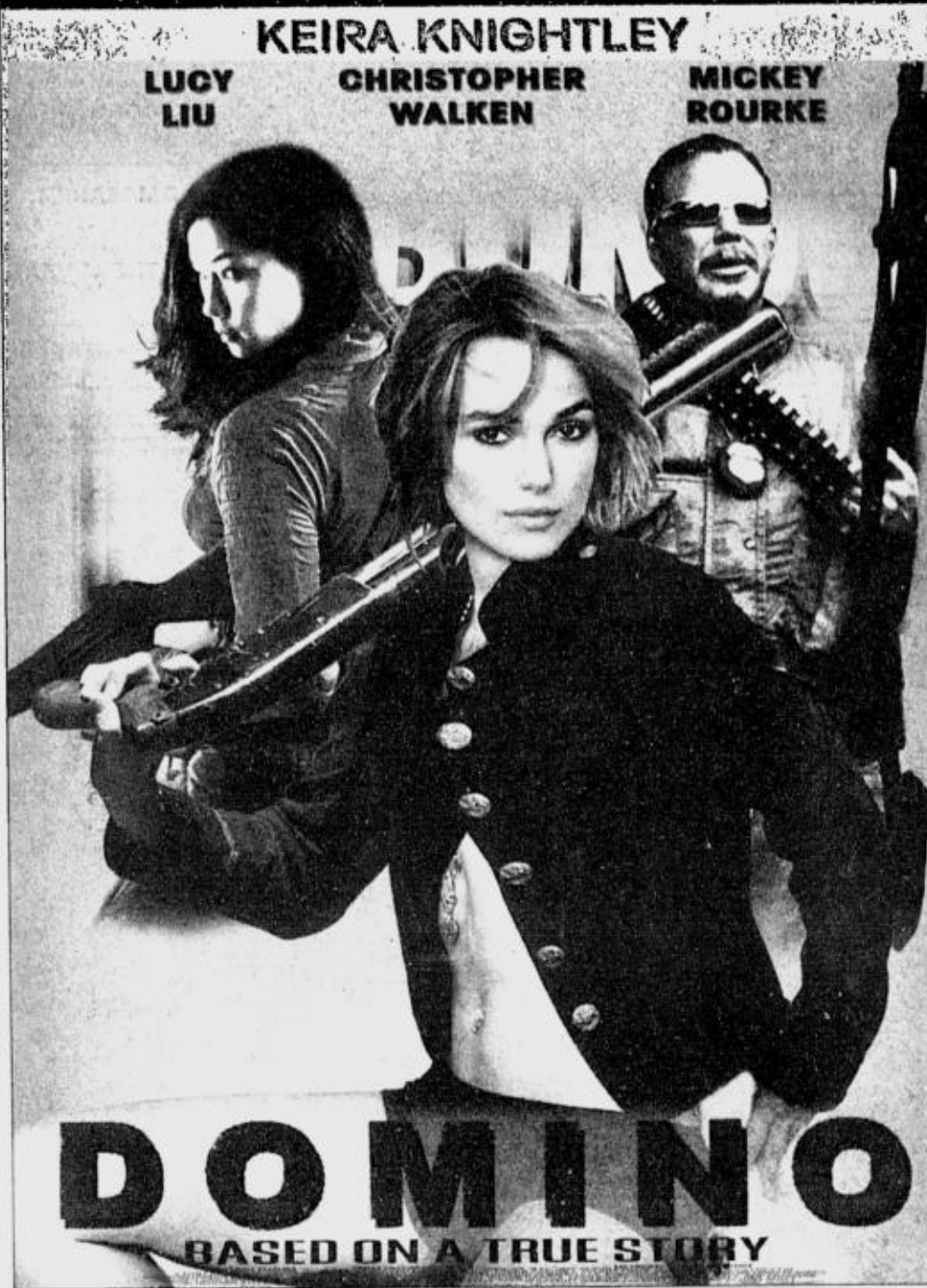
Dy, Peter and Arevalo will have to play in the qualifying event scheduled Nov. 6-7 to make the 32-man main draw.

"I'm confident that we have good players in the national team and I would like to invite our countrymen to cheer and support them," said Jean Henri Lhuillier, who was recently appointed manager of both the RP men's and women's tennis teams.

THE HUNT BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY

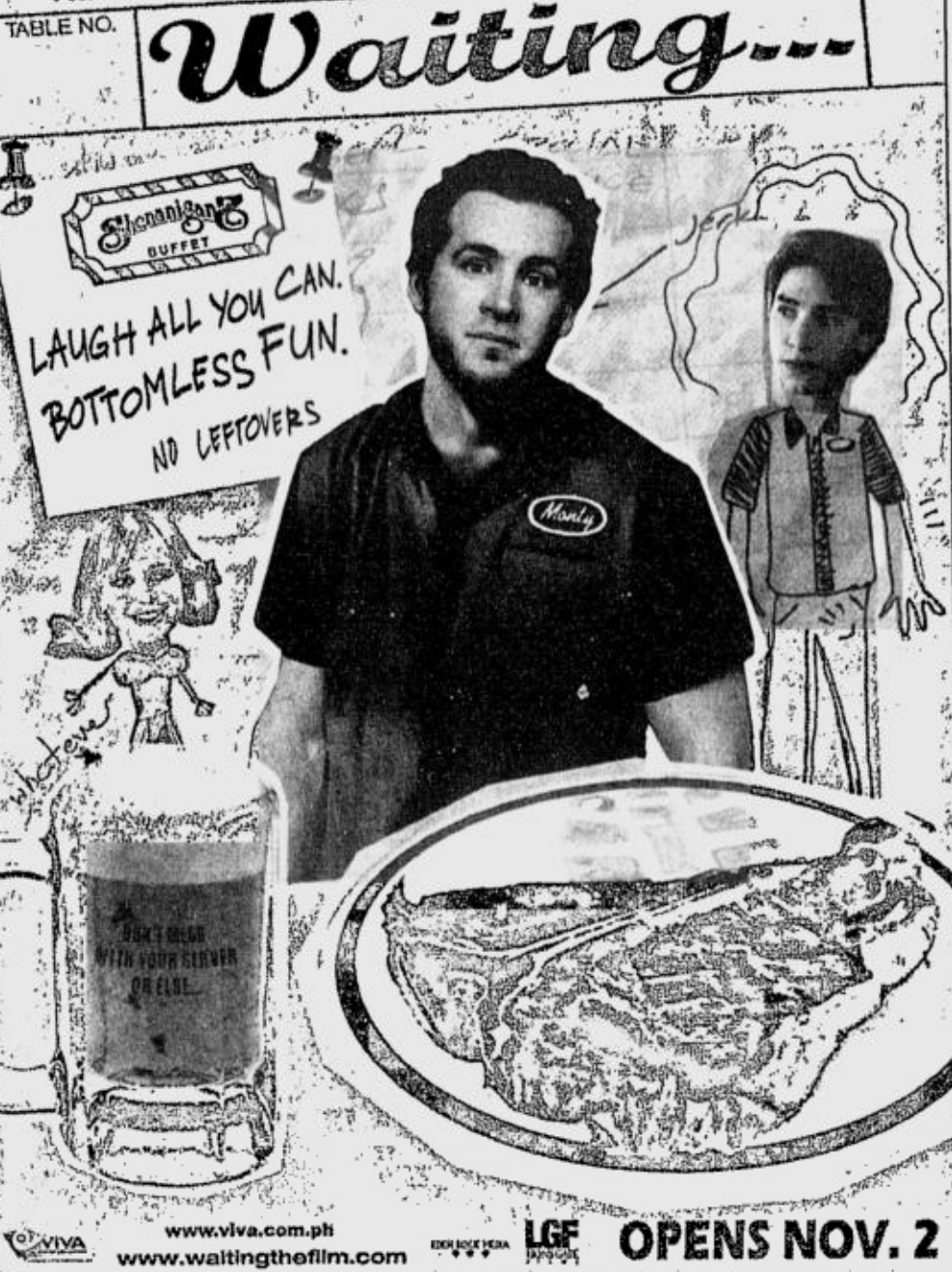
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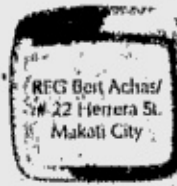
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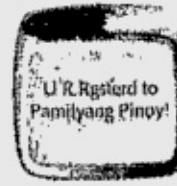
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"PLEASE, I'm not interested in moving to ABS-CBN."

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Melanie's sticking it out with GMA 7

By Marinel R. Cruz

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN moving to ABS-CBN. Please stop putting words in my mouth. I have a strong sense of loyalty to GMA 7," pleaded Melanie Marquez when asked to comment on news that she was planning to join the Kapamilya Network.

Talk has it that Melanie started sending feelers to ABS-CBN bosses after she received word from Floy Quintos, di-

rector of the late-night "Show Biz Stripped" on GMA 7, that she was being taken out of the program. "Show Biz Stripped," which she co-hosts with Ricky Lo, has been reformatted; only Lo was retained.

Melanie's appearance on Boy Abunda's "HomeBoy" on ABS-CBN fanned the speculations, said the model-actress in a phone interview with INQUIRER Entertainment on Friday.

She explained: "But I received an invitation from 'HomeBoy' long before I was told I would no longer host 'Show Biz Stripped.' In fact, I get invited to ABS-CBN a lot of times, but my schedule had

always been so hectic. I don't know where people get stories from. GMA 7 has never been possessive of its talents. I appreciate that. Common sense dictates that if your company is good to you, gan'un ka din sa company mo."

According to Melanie, she signed a contract with GMA 7 for "Show Biz Stripped" that stated that she would host the show for four seasons. "But I did only two seasons. After I interviewed (2005 Miss International) Precious Lara Quigaman, Direk Floy came up to me and said that story would be my last."

Despite being dismissed, Melanie said she respected the network's decision. "I

understand," she said. "This show is really for Ricky Lo. I just felt bad because I would miss working with the team."

Melanie said she was, in fact, thankful to the network. "I learned new things. I improved a lot. Apart from being a model and an actress, I'm now a TV host."

Her new show, "Ginang Fashionista," will premiere on Nov. 19, this time on QTV Channel 11, the Kapuso Network's satellite company.

Melanie said, "My only consolation is that I've been taken out while 'Show Biz Stripped' is still doing well. If it were not rating, it would mean hindi ako nakatulong."

Happiness na ito! Yahoong-Yahoo!

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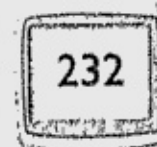


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ENTERTAINMENT
A Dakota Fanning

OUR ARTICLE ON DAKOTA FANNING elicited a number of reactions from readers, many of them fans of the movie world's most popular and busiest child star. Some, however, didn't agree that she was the biggest female star today. Well, that evaluation wasn't made by us, but by some of entertainment industry observers and show biz TV programs in the United States.

They point to the huge grosses that Dakota's stars have chalked up (\$600 million, and counting), her superstar co-stars, and the fact that she's chalked up these achievements in only four or five years.

More on Dakota: She was born in 1994. At a precociously early age, long before the movies discovered her, she loved acting at home—putting a towel under her shirt and pretending to be having a baby, etc.

Dakota went to a playhouse where the kids put on a play each week. She stood out in the presentations, and friends prodded her folks to take her to a talent agency.

They were advised to spend six weeks in Los Angeles, and the gambit paid off because little Dakota beat many other child talents to "star" in a national Tide commercial.

Dakota signed with a professional agency and soon won a role in her first movie, "Tomcats," in 2001. Other early projects included "Father Xmas."

Her big break came when she auditioned for the key role of Sean Penn's daughter in "I Am Sam." Her performance impressed Penn, and movie audiences were similarly gratified.

Producers took note of Dakota's vivid impact on viewers, and cast her in "Trapped" (2002),

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

where she co-starred with Theron. She then played Reese in "Sweet Home Alabama."

She then narrated a big part in the TV mini-series "Hansel & Gretel," where she played Katie. These projects were completed in one year, 2001!

2003 turned out to be an exceptional year for the young child star: She played Sally Walden in "Hat" with Mark Wahlberg. And she voiced the role in "Kim Possible."

In 2004, Dakota starred with Denzel Washington in the thriller, "Man on Fire," which has superb reviews.

Thus far in 2004, she has come out in "Nurse Jackie" with the Rob Reiner production "Hide and Seek," daughter of Tom Cruise of the "Worlds," Kurt Russell in the movie, "Dream House," and acted the role of a mated feature, "2:28 Stitches."

For Fanning, the year is a mix of trivia: At the age of 10, she became the youngest nominee for the Golden Globe award. Her performance in "I Am Sam" earned her a nomination for the Best Young Actress award.



JANET: "Me, a mom?"

Those news-magazines

LOS ANGELES—A FORMERLY successful Jackson for more than \$3 million in the entertainment of concealing and maintaining her privacy.

Jackson filed the cross-complaint in Los Angeles County Superior Court against lawyer Brent Ayscough and his firm.

Schaffel filed the original lawsuit, claiming Jackson owed him two 2003 television appearances for payments and loans made over the past three years.

Jackson also claims Schaffel's lawyer Howard Stern's accusation, calling it a "claim."

As for Janet...

Meanwhile, Michael's saying that she is a mother.

In a terse statement released last week, the 57-year-old singer balked at the claim that she has a "secret child."

"I do not have a child, and I am not a mother," Jackson said in the syndicated "Access Hollywood."

On Friday, Young DeBarge, ex-husband, James DeBarge, brother had a child named Rebbie Jackson, Janet's oldest daughter.

"James and the Jacksons are close, real tight," Young DeBarge said on a radio station.

Janet and James, a singer and dancer, were married in 1984, when Jackson was 19.

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Why Liv Ullmann can never be an Ingmar Bergman

By Constantino C. Tejero

INGMAR BERGMAN IS WHAT we would call the ultimate filmmaker, a master of word and visual. Not even our admiration for Ozu, Bresson, Hitchcock, Buñuel, Dreyer, Eisenstein, Antonioni, Fellini, Kurosawa, Renoir, Satyajit Ray, Wajda, Welles, Herzog, could topple Bergman from our altar.

His films perfectly blend sound and image. Being a theater person who adores Strindberg, he has mastered the dialogue, perfected blocking and framing, conquered sound and space.

A true auteur, the Swedish filmmaker writes his own scripts—and these are among the most literate screenplays one will ever encounter, not to say among the most literary. In fact, his screenplay reads like a play or a short story. What other scriptwriters leave out for the director to fill up, he describes in full detail, in the manner of Bernard Shaw or Eugene O'Neill.

Daunting equation

He can be wordy when he chooses to be literary but, like Shakespeare, he makes up for it with a highly visual imagination. Consider this line from "The Serpent's Egg," on the Weimar period giving birth to Nazism: "It's like a serpent's egg. Through the thin membranes you can clearly discern the already perfect reptile."

Hamish Ford, professor of cinema studies and scholar of European modernist cinema, has this to say of Bergman's work: "In terms of an oeuvre, the equation is daunting: around 50 films of remarkable reach, at least a third of them genuine masterpieces."

As director, the man retired from commercial filmmaking after the release of "Fanny and Alexander" in 1982.

When we heard the news, we got that sinking feeling. He was only in his early 60s then. Why, Kurosawa and Manoel de Oliveira were creating masterpieces well into their 80s.

Bergman made his last film for theatrical release, "Autumn Sonata," in 1978 when he was only 60. The subsequent "Fanny and Alexander," "From the Life of the Marionettes" and "After the Rehearsal" were all originally made for television.

Afterwards, he scripted a quartet of films but let others direct—Bille August's "The Best Intentions," Daniel Bergman's "Sun-



ONCE again, Ullmann serves as a medium for her former lover's message.

day's Children," Liv Ullmann's "Private Confessions" and "Faithless."

It is interesting to see the development of the film "Private Confessions," from an episode in Bergman's life to his short story published in The New Yorker, to the screenplay he wrote, to the film directed by his former lover.

So when "Trolösa" (Faithless) was presented in the recently concluded Cine Europa, we cancelled all previous engagements to catch its limited screening at Shangri-La Plaza.

Released in 1999, this film had been hyped for being scripted by Bergman. In fact, one otherwise sensible critic described it as even better than a Bergman film.

We wanted to see what the hype was all about. We had missed Bergman so, any film associated with him was good enough for us. We were curious about not only his personal, but also creative, relationship with Ullmann.

That's why we endured the pain of queuing up for nearly two hours in the mall just to watch "Trolösa" on the wide screen.

Riot of emotions

It is an autumnal film. Bergman not only reveals a guilty episode in his life in the manner of the confessional, but also explores the process of creation as postmodern artists would reflect in their art.

Bergman-regular Erland Josephson plays a writer living on an island and struggling to write a story based on a memory of lost love. Any Bergman fan would instantly recognize the stand-in for the filmmaker now retired



THE SWEDISH auteur almost always makes only perfect films.

on his beloved Färö (setting of many a Bergman film) and recalling his youth.

The story unfolds as a love triangle among Marianne (played by Lena Endre), her husband Markus (Thomas Hanson), and his best friend David (Krister Henriksson). Superficially, it plays like Mike Nichols' "Closer."

The film is built on an accumulation of significant details and a series of tense scenes gradually building up toward an explosive climax. (Remember, the scriptwriter is a theater person.)

There are splendid performances right and left. An appalling scene is when the husband catches the lovers off-guard in the apartment room they've rented for their trysts.

Emotions run riot in the faces and bodies of the actors, from guilt and shame to repugnance and alarm to shock and embarrassment and laughter. This scene is so naked, so private, that the viewer feels with the characters and can't help but giggle between hilarity and horror.

This certainly bears the look and characteristics of Bergman's tormented universe—close-ups of faces, fractured family, damaged psyche, frank sexuality, smoldering acting, complex emotions, metaphysical questions, expressive lighting, an interplay of quiet and explosive scenes, light and shade, the room as arena of conflict, a supernatural glow.

Here, Ullmann has become a vessel. As she did when she was his actress, she has once again served as a medium for his message.

This is her film, but it is so inextricably



AGAIN, the creative partners, with actor Erland Josephson in "Saraband" (2005), what could be Bergman's final work.

When "Trolösa (Faithless)," was shown at the recently concluded Cine Europa, we dropped all previous plans just to catch it

linked with him that it can't be discussed without invoking his name.

In some sequences, though, a few slips betray it as a film not made by Bergman. Perhaps one scene is just a little too brightly lit, or perhaps the music here is a timbre too loud, or the acting there a mite too dramatic.

Instant giveaways

Such nuances are instant giveaways. Because Bergman would never have made such miscalculations. His image is always defined, his sound always controlled, whether conducted as a scream or in absolute silence. Almost always he makes only perfect films.

No matter how fine a film Ullmann has produced in "Trolösa," she can't be Bergman. Because what Bergman writes is so interlinked with his life and ingrained in his personality—it precludes tampering by other people. He has such clarity of vision there's no other way but to make his film pure.

Films can be Bergmanian or Bergmanesque or whatever you call them—but only Bergman can make a Bergman film. The later Fellini was making Felliniesque films, as Buñuel made Buñuellesque films—but Bergman makes only Bergman films.

Then it happened. News of his return recently drove film enthusiasts agog. The film maestro, now 87, has just released "Saraband"—what could be his final masterpiece.

Gary Lewis had luck on his side

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

GARY LEWIS ALMOST LOST HIS VOICE, THE Filipina "go-go" dancers were trying-hard versions of Laura Danao, and the drummer of Bloomfields, the front act, stole the show.

Even then, the Friday night concert of Gary Lewis And The Playboys at the Araneta Coliseum packed sufficient charm and energy that had several geezers in the crowd dancing the Twist and the Jerk (remember)?

The gig loosened rickety limbs as the band rendered wonderful versions of Wilson Pickett's "Mustang Sally" and Sam the Sham's "Woolly Bully." Old couples gamely stood up to shake their butts—one matron joined Lewis onstage!

Apparently, this singer who broke into the scene in 1964 is a rocker at heart although his type of rock 'n' roll—at least the ones that made him a hit maker—was considered too mellow by the time the Beatles stopped singing silly love songs.

Not so retro

Still, there's reason to appreciate much of the repertoire that didn't seem so retro as handled by Lewis' younger cohorts who made up the latest lineup of the Playboys. "This Diamond Ring" and "Everybody Loves A Clown" were reminders of the art of storytelling as a songwriting craft. Some of the writers of these gems, by the way, were Al Kooper (who played keyboards in Bob Dylan's "Like A Rolling Stone") and Leon Russell (one of whose songs was covered in the recent Michael Buble concert).

The gig had elements of show biz, no big surprise since Gary's dad is the legendary comedian Jerry Lewis, whose vintage TV clips were shown on a video screen exchanging one-liners with a young Gary.

The singer clearly had luck on his side because he pulled through in crucial moments when his vocal chords were on the verge of sputtering. Exhaustion... or age creeping up?

Whatever. By now it's obvious that Manila is being treated to a steady stream of oldies acts that bring back sweet, happy memories of a life less complicated. As the crowd slowly filed out of the Big Dome, the voiceover told us to watch out for Chad & Jeremy, The Lettermen, the Stylistics. Can we push the time capsule forward a bit? Isn't it time somebody brought in U2?

A CERTIFIED BOX OFFICE HIT SA MGA PINOY!

Pinag-uusapan at pinagkakaguluhan ng lahat, pati ang mga kritiko ay nagbigay na ng kanilang thumbs up." Ito ay walang iba kundi ang bagong Mister Donut Special Edition Encantadia Dozen Box." Mula ngayon, maiuwi mo na lahat ng drama at excitement ng paborito ninyong telefantasya.* Makakasama n yo na rin parati ang mga napakasiikat na Encantadia characters sa bawat box.

At hindi lang yon, may box ka na, may libreng Encantadia pillow ka pa." Pumili sa apat na enchanting pillows at para n yo na ring nakasama ang favorite Encantadia character n yo.

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PC BUYER'S GUIDE
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2004 National Magazine Trade Awards

Gov't readies sale of Mimosa leisure complex

Dangles casino license to lure investors

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORP. is set to bid out the 232-hectare Mimosa Leisure Estate in the next few weeks following a favorable decision of the Supreme Court giving the go-ahead for the sale.

CDC Chair Narciso Abaya, who is also president and chief executive of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, said in an interview that foreign companies have signified interest to take part in the bidding.

"A pre-bidding conference will take place in November and the opening of the bids is set early in 2006," Abaya said.

He added that the state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. has committed to process a license for the winning bidder to operate a casino in Mimosa.

This development comes after Poro Point in La Union, another former military facility for which the government is taking efforts to convert into other uses, has caught the eye of a California-based gaming company.

Abaya said International Thunderbird Gaming Corp. recently won a contract to de-

velop Poro Point's 65.5-hectare tourism complex, where it would open a casino and build a resort hotel and villas.

Development of tourism businesses in the former United States Air Force facility was under way, Abaya said.

"By the end of the year, Clark will be handling a total of 50 flights a week, including those to and from Dubai (in the United Arab Emirates)," Abaya added.

CDC, a government-owned and controlled firm, took over the Mimosa leisure complex in December 1999 after the operator, Mondragon Leisure and Resorts Corp., failed to settle back rentals amounting to at least P450 million.

CDC agreed to give Mondragon a chance to recover management and control of the estate but the latter failed to comply with CDC requirements, which led to the decision to sell the property through a bidding in 2004.

Mondragon asked the Supreme Court to stop the bidding through a temporary restraining order as it questioned the terms and conditions set for the sale.

In a decision dated June 15, 2005, the Supreme Court denied for lack of merit Mondragon's petition to nullify the Court of Appeals' dismissal of a complaint against the firm regarding its failure to meet its obligations to creditor banks.

WHAT'S INSIDE

PPA posts
P2.2B in net
income

/B2

EPCIBank
to sell
contested
shares

/B5

DA cuts corn
production
goal for 2005

/B8

Korean eyes \$1-B shipyard in Subic

A KOREAN SHIPBUILDER IS EXPECTED to put up a \$1-billion shipyard at the Subic freeport after it signed preliminary papers with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Armand C. Arreza, SBMA administrator and chief executive, said in an interview that if the planned shipyard is completed, it would be the fourth largest in the world. The official, however, declined to identify the prospective Korean investor.

"The facility will be able to accommodate big vessels that can handle 8,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (a TEU being a 20-foot

dry-cargo container)," Arreza said.

The shipyard, which will occupy 269 hectares, will take five years to build.

"More importantly, this venture is expected to create as many as 20,000 new jobs," he added.

The SBMA official said finalization of the arrangement for the Korean firm to locate in Subic was being facilitated. "People want it to be wrapped up in time for the South Korean president's visit to the Philippines on Dec. 15," Arreza said.

He also said the company had

KOREAN/B5

Japan bank clears sale of Masinloc plant

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER ABOUT A YEAR OF WAITING, THE Japan Bank for International Cooperation has finally given its consent to the sale of the 600-megawatt (MW) Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales.

JBIC, one of National Power Corp.'s major creditors, was the last lender to issue its consent. The Asian Development Bank and the World Bank issued their consents in July and September, respectively.

"After careful consideration of the request (of the Department of Energy, Napocor and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.) and in accordance with all existing loan agreements, we advise that Japan Bank for International Cooperation, for itself and on behalf of the lenders other than JBIC, hereby consents to the transfer of the ownership (of the Masinloc plant) from the borrower to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.," JBIC director Manabu Homma said in a letter dated Oct. 28.

The lender likewise gave its nod to the transfer of the power plant to YNN Pacific, which won the auction with a \$561.7-million bid.

PSALM president Nieves Osorio had earlier said that the completion of all required creditor consents for the plant also meant that the government could already request the transfer of the required 40-percent upfront payment of \$222.8 million to the national government.

"The completion of the creditors' consent to the sale of the Masinloc facility is a boost to

JAPAN/B3

INDICATORS CURRENCIES



OCTOBER
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 54.94 = \$

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 28, 2005

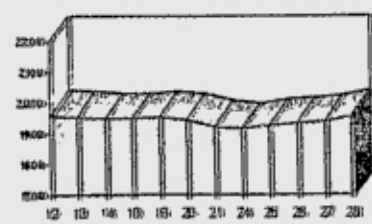
Y 115.18 = \$

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 28, 2005

GOLD: \$474.10-474.60

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 28, 2005

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B5)

Sluggish trading seen in shortened week

WITH ONLY TWO TRADING DAYS THIS week, the stock market is expected to be sluggish with thin volumes as many investors are expected to be out of town for the holidays.

The government has declared Oct. 31 and Nov. 4 as non-working holidays. Nov. 1 is also a regular holiday as the country observes All Saints' Day. Trading resumes on Nov. 2 and 3.

SLUGGISH/B5

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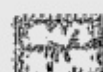
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VAT on insurance

TOMORROW, THE expanded value-added tax (VAT) law finally takes effect. This means that some taxpayers, like lawyers and doctors, will lose their exemptions. But life insurance will remain exempt; this exemption applies to old and new policies.

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES



Honesto C. General

The VAT rate will go up from 10 to 12 percent when the President says so, anytime next year.

When the President does raise the rate to 12 percent, this increase will apply to all kinds of non-life insurance, including surety and fidelity bonds.

If the annual premium on your fire insurance policy on your house is P15,000, the VAT goes up from P1,500 to P1,800, an increase of P300. The invoice lumps the premium and the tax into one amount. Your next invoice then will show the total of P16,800.

The invoice will also show three other taxes, the rates of which remain the same: (a) the documentary stamp tax of 12 1/2 percent, or P1,875, (b) the local government tax (Makati has the lowest, 0.15 percent), or P22.50, and (c) the fire service tax of 2 percent, or P300. All in all, your total bill is P18,997.50. This is an increase of P300.

In the whole wide world, fire insurance is the only thing you need to buy where the invoice shows four separate taxes.

By the way, you are not charged the fire service tax on the premium of your other policies, such as personal accident, medical, or motor car.

With the new VAT rate, the total tax on your fire insurance policy is 26.65 percent of premium. This is higher than those on jewelry, gambling winnings and movie tickets. In fact, it is the highest rate in the entire tax code.

If it is any comfort to you, it is a worldwide phenomenon that insurance buyers, big and small, pay the highest tax rates on their premium. Governments all over the world seem to think that if a citizen can afford to buy insurance, he can afford to pay the highest tax rates on the premium as well.

I estimate that, for the first 12 months of the new VAT rate, the BIR will collect about P600 million in new revenue from non-life insurance. Commercial and industrial buyers of insurance will pay for as much as 90 percent of this amount.

The commercial and industrial buyers will pass on the additional VAT to their consumers. However, competition will drive these big buyers to use their tremendous clout on the insurance companies to cut their premiums, without sacrificing coverage, in order to accommodate the additional VAT. In the end, VAT collection will not be less than my estimate of P600 million a year. This is not tax leakage or tax evasion. It is efficient management working in a free, open, and competitive market.

The VAT collection from non-life insurance will go up again as buyers buy more insurance, if only to cover inflation. In the end, the collection will go beyond P600 million a year.

Small insurance buyers like you and me have little or no clout with the insurance company. Cutting down on your insurance is not a wise option. I suggest you talk the problem over with your insurance broker. He should have an idea or two that will help.

PPA posts P2.2B in net income

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY REGISTERED A P2.16-billion net income in the first nine months, up slightly from P2 billion last year.

The agency, which is in charge of operating seaports and overseeing private maritime terminals, surpassed its full-year net profit target of P1.98 billion by 24 percent as early as September despite increasing costs of operations, according to PPA assistant general manager Aida Dizon.

Dizon said revenue grew by almost 6 percent in nine months at P4.38 billion from P4.1 billion a year ago despite a drop in the arrival of foreign vessels. She said the PPA had to cut charges on domestic cargo operators.

For the year, the maritime agency is looking at a total revenue of P5.9 billion, higher than last year's P5.6 billion.

Expenses from January to September reached P2.22 billion, up slightly from P2.13 billion in the same period last year. For the whole of 2005, the agency believed spending would hit P3.93 billion from P3.65 billion a year ago.

"The increase was due to higher costs of repair and maintenance of ports, increased spending for security and payment for utilities like electricity, water and phone," she said.

There were extraordinary expenses too, such as the signing bonus for PPA employees following the signing of a collective bargaining agreement this year, said Dizon.

Portion of the PPA expenses was used to pay interest on loans. The PPA has P8.5 billion in outstanding obligations that are all denominated in foreign currencies.

PPA POSTS/B/

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UCPB KAL001 - COMMERCIAL BLDG.
LA 650 sqm.
Dol Mundo St., GRACE PARK
MIN. BID PRICE: P 8,109,000.00

UCPB KAL002 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 310 sqm.
139 Gen. Pae Villanueva St., KALANAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,096,000.00

LAS PIÑAS

UCPB LSP003 - COMMERCIAL LOT
LA 6,173 sqm.
LOT 2-B, ALABANG-ZAPOTE ROAD
MIN. BID PRICE: P 7,106,100.00

UCPB LSP004 - TOWNHOUSE
LA 119 sqm.
Elegant Homes II, Estero de San
B.F. RESORT VILLAGE
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,242,000.00

UCPB LSP005 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 250 sqm.
Sino Kameyama Bldg. TOLON
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,691,000.00

UCPB LSP006 - COMMERCIAL LOT
LA 545 sqm.
BROD ZAPOTE (Bordez Makel)
MIN. BID PRICE: P 10,432,800.00

MAKATI CITY

UCPB MKT007 - CONDO UNIT W/ F.A.
LA 50 sqm.
The Domain Condo, Torocillas St.,
SALCEDO VILLAGE
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,763,000.00

UCPB MKT008 - COMMERCIAL LOT
LA 454 sqm.
Lot 10 Bk 3, Chino Roces Ave.,
KALANAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 20,435,000.00

UCPB MKT009 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 210 sqm.
Unit 201 Makati Prime City Saint Paul St.,
SAN ANTONIO VILLAGE
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,320,000.00

UCPB MKT010 - COMMERCIAL LOT
LA 476 sqm.
Kalyan Corner Kany St., STA. CRUZ
MIN. BID PRICE: P 8,694,000.00

UCPB MKT011 - CONDO UNIT
LA 129 sqm.
Unit No. 305, No. 1233 Capt. M. Reyes,
BANGAL
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,915,200.00

MANDALUYONG CITY

UCPB MND016 - HOUSE & LOT
LA 317 sqm.
Sta. Lucia St., PLANTVIEW
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,706,000.00

UCPB MND017 - RESIDENTIAL CONDO
LA 125 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB MND021 - CONDOMINIUM
LA 140 sqm.
Unit 301, COLONY FELICIDAD I
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,132,000.00

MANILA

UCPB MIA022 - COMMERCIAL LOT
LA 375 sqm.
Sta. Lucia St., PLANTVIEW
MIN. BID PRICE: P 9,575,000.00

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Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
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UCPB MIA024 - INDUSTRIAL LOT
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UCPB SJU025 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU026 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU027 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU028 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU029 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU030 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU031 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU032 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU033 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU034 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU035 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU036 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU037 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU038 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU039 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU040 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU041 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU042 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU043 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB SJU044 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN075 - HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,829 sqm.
Sipang Palay, SAN JOSE DEL MONTE
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,160,000.00

UCPB BLN076 - COMMERCIAL LOT W/ F.A.
LA 347 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN077 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN078 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN079 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN080 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN081 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN082 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN083 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN084 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN085 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN086 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN087 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN088 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN089 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN090 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN091 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN092 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

UCPB BLN093 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 281 sqm.
Unit 101, Santa Maria St.,
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,158,100.00

VAT and E-VAT: theory and reality

FINANCE SECRETARY GARY TEVES NEARLY swept members of the donor community off their feet last Friday, as he explained to them how the government will dramatically bring down its deficit-to-GDP ratio to just over 2 percent by next year.

Coming from close to 4 percent last year, this would be a mean feat if it could indeed be pulled off. He also indicated that the government budget could be balanced by 2008, two years earlier than the current target.

Not everyone in his audience seemed impressed, though.

While Secretary Teves talked about the plan, members of his audience talked about performance and implementation.

The plan is to achieve a 24 percent growth in revenues next year. But based on this year's performance so far, government revenues are projected to rise by only half as much, i.e. 12 percent over last year, which is already its best performance since 1997.

The Arroyo government is actually averaging 9 percent annual revenue growth so far. (In contrast, Ramos averaged 14 percent, and Estrada only 3 percent.) So is the government's projected 24 percent revenue growth realistic? Where will it come from?

Banking on E-VAT

Clearly, the government is pinning most of its hopes on the expanded Value Added Tax which the Supreme Court has recently cleared with finality. The measure is hoped to yield some P80 billion in incremental revenues by next year.

Assuming 70 percent collection efficiency, government expects the biggest addition to revenues from E-VAT to come from the repeal of the previous VAT exemptions of petroleum and coal products, electric power and doctors' and lawyers' services, all projected to add P39 billion.

Raising the rate from 10 to 12 percent, which takes effect in January 2006, will add another P35 billion. Spreading the creditability of input VAT paid on capital equipment over five years will add P19 billion and capping overall input VAT credits to 70 percent of the output VAT, another P8 billion. Some P6 billion will come from raising the corporate income tax for three years to 35 percent from the current 32 percent.

Offsetting these are mitigating measures like reduction of excise taxes on fuels, and removal of franchise taxes on power distribution, air transport and shipping services, which will reduce revenues by P21.5 billion.

Biased for the poor

There is no question that the E-VAT will hit every Filipino consumer.

But putting aside the emotion, a cold-nosed analysis of data on people's consumption behavior based on the regular Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES) would indicate that the E-VAT measure as configured would hit the rich much more than the poor.

Calculations by UP and World Bank economists indicate that the poorer half of Filipinos will contribute 17 of the VAT's revenues, with the bulk (83 percent) borne by the non-poor.

This is because most of the products consumed by the poor will remain VAT-free, while the VAT on power distribution will affect only households consuming more than 200 kilowatt-hours a month.

World Bank economists calculate that for the bottom half of the population, the E-VAT should increase their expenditure by just about one peso a day.

This is what the theory would say, anyway. The problem is that actual practice and experience could be very different.

While I have come to accept the expanded VAT law as a "necessary evil" today, I see two important threats concerning this controversial measure. One is a threat to us consumers, and the other a threat to the realization of government's own optimistic projections on the measure's benefits.

Baseless toll increases

The threat to consumers stems from improper use of the E-VAT measure as an excuse by either confused or less-than-scrupulous businesses to impose unjustified price increases. Expressway tolls are a prominent example.

We have been greeted with giant streamers at both the North and South Luzon Expressways announcing that highway tolls will go up 10 percent on Nov. 1 because of the VAT.

Japan bank ...

From page B1

the privatization efforts of the government as it will encourage investors to enter the Philippine power industry and help expand the ownership base of generation companies in the country," she said in a statement Friday.

"This positive development will hopefully lead to more success in terms of bidding out the other (Napocor) facilities," she added.

PSALM is now working on getting the ADB, the World Bank and JBIC to issue "universal consents" for the transfer of Napocor assets to winning bidders in the future.

Under the current set-up, PSALM has to seek the Napocor creditors' consent before it can transfer each of the sold assets to their respective winning bidders.

With a universal consent, however, Osorio said winning bidders would not have to wait that long, enabling them to immediately take charge of the asset they had bought.

"The ADB is agreeable to a universal transfer. We've already made two rounds with our omnibus agreement. The World Bank has also sent us the revised draft of the agreement, also for a universal consent. We're just waiting for JBIC now," she said earlier, adding that there seemed to be no more hurdles to JBIC's issuance of its own universal consent.

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito



But Secretary Teves himself expresses surprise at this, because unlike the oil industry and power companies, highway tolls had always been subject to VAT, long before the E-VAT measure!

There is absolutely no reason, then, why the implementation of the E-VAT on Nov. 1 should make a difference for highway tolls.

I prefer to think it was more of confusion rather than lack of scruples that led the expressway operators to threaten us with 10-percent toll increases.

Thankfully, the Toll Regulatory Board announced last Friday that the toll hikes are deferred indefinitely, while they seek "clarification" with the BIR.

All they really need to do is verify that VAT

payments were being made to BIR all along since the VAT started in 1988. If they were not, then they were getting away with massive tax evasion all these years. If they were, then they should banish all those giant streamers to oblivion.

Back to reality

The problem is, many other businesses are likely to take advantage of the confusion, and do what the expressway operators almost did. In this case, the economists' finding that the VAT is biased for the poor could well fall apart.

The other threat comes from the heroic assumption that there will be 70 percent collection efficiency. The World Bank's analysis shows that the VAT efficiency ratio has ranged only from 13 to 20 percent since 1994. Which brings us all back to what critics of the E-VAT measure have been saying all along: let's do the homework on tax collection efficiency first—and not keep hitting the honest taxpayers with more and higher taxes every time government needs more money, while letting the dishonest ones get away with plunder. (Comments are welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu.)

CURRENCIES

October 30, 2005	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.823791	1.000000	55.0600
Japan	Yen	0.007137	0.008663	0.4770
United Kingdom	Pound	1.469231	1.783500	98.1995
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106241	0.128966	7.1009
Switzerland	Franc	0.646770	0.785114	43.2284
Canada	Dollar	0.702714	0.853024	46.9515
Singapore	Dollar	0.488086	0.592487	32.6223
Australia	Dollar	0.623753	0.757174	41.6900
Bahrain	Dinar	2.185180	2.652590	146.0616
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219686	0.266652	14.6819
Brunei	Dollar	0.486644	0.590737	32.5260
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000100	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020221	0.024546	1.3515
UAE	Dirham	0.224308	0.272287	14.9921
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.213900	66.8373
Argentina	Peso	0.273004	0.331400	18.2469
Brazil	Real	0.360442	0.437541	24.0910
Denmark	Kroner	0.134048	0.162721	8.9594
India	Ruppee	0.018331	0.022252	1.2252
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218263	0.264950	14.5881
Mexico	New Peso	0.075619	0.091794	5.0542
New Zealand	Dollar	0.581527	0.705916	38.8677
Norway	Kroner	0.128263	0.155698	8.5727
Pakistan	Ruppee	0.013838	0.016798	0.9249
South Africa	Rand	0.123322	0.149701	8.2425
Korea	Won	0.000792	0.000962	0.0530
Sweden	Kroner	0.105054	0.127525	7.0215
Syria	Pound	0.015870	0.019264	1.0607
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024499	0.029739	1.6374
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000384	0.000466	0.0257

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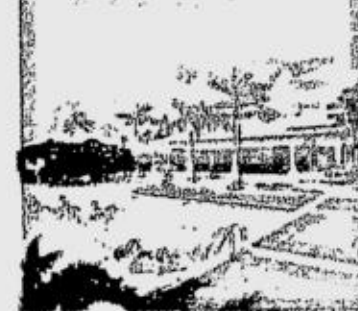
My five-year old
can say "Hello"
in six languages.



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MAIN CLUBHOUSE and POOL



KASSANDRA house model



Who says one language is enough for your child? At Brentville International Community, she is surrounded by a lifestyle of cultural discovery, in an actively thriving community that boasts of world-class facilities far superior to other properties pre-selling in the area.

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People, Events & Products

Editor Aries Espinosa

Omega-3 fish oil, statins benefit heart patients

OMEGA-3 FATTY ACIDS CONTAINED IN fish oil showed the most favorable benefit among anti-cholesterol drugs in reducing overall deaths and heart-related deaths. This was according to a well-designed study published in the prestigious Archives of Internal Medicine recently.

In the meta-analysis study, omega-3 supplementation significantly reduced overall deaths by 23 percent and heart-related deaths by 32 percent. Statins, another popularly used anti-cholesterol drug, reduced overall deaths by 13 percent and heart-related deaths by 22 percent. The other classes of drugs, including fibrates, resins and niacin did not show any significant benefit on reducing the risk of deaths on the long-term.

This study is the strongest data so far for the use of omega-3 fish oil supplementation. It is expected to change the treatment outlook of physicians in the management of patients at risk of developing heart attacks, strokes and other complications of the atherosclerotic narrowing of the blood vessels, which is now the leading cause of deaths in the Philippines and worldwide.

This high-risk group includes patients who have diabetes, high blood pressure, cholesterol problems, obesity and are smokers. Patients who have the dreaded metabolic syndrome may also benefit from omega-3 fish oil supplementation.

The meta-analysis was conducted by a team of independent experts headed by Marco Studer MD and Matthias Briel MD of the Institute for Clinical Epidemiology in Basel, Switzerland and the Department of Internal Medicine of the University Hospital of Basel. The study was not funded by any pharmaceutical company.

Considered one of the most extensive meta-analysis conducted on anti-cholesterol drugs, the study included all well designed randomized controlled trials published between 1965 and June 2003 that compared lipid-lowering agents or dietary interventions with placebo pills or usual care of treatment. The trials all had a follow-up period of at least 6 months and included mortality data. Of 10,977 clinical trials screened, only 97 passed the strin-

gent criteria of the authors. The included trials involved a total of 137,140 individuals allocated to various anti-cholesterol treatments and 138,976 individuals in the control group.

The highly significant benefit noted with omega-3 could not be attributed to its cholesterol-lowering effect since it only reduced cholesterol levels modestly compared to the other drugs. "(Omega) n-3 fatty acids lowered total cholesterol level to a very small extent, which indicates that beneficial effects must be mediated by other means," wrote the authors.

Citing published data, the authors attributed it more to the beneficial effects of omega-3 in preventing fatal irregularity in the heart-beat (anti-arrhythmic effect), preventing blood clots (anti-thrombotic effect) and preserving the integrity of the endothelial lining of the blood vessels (endothelial anti-inflammatory effect).

Omega-3 was also noted to reduce effectively blood triglyceride levels, which is another form of lipid or fat in the blood. "If used in appropriate doses, (omega) n-3 fatty acids are as effective as fibrates to reduce triglyceride levels but are associated with a reduction in overall mortality," the authors included in their discussion.

Based on this study, only omega-3 fish oil and statins offered significant benefits to patients in reducing the risk of deaths with prolonged intake. The authors recommend that future trials explore if omega-3 in combination with statins lead to additional reduction in heart-disease mortality especially in patients with metabolic syndrome.

Omegabloc is one of the leading brands of omega-3 available as an over-the-counter product at Mercury, Watsons and other leading drugstores nationwide. Manufactured by NOW Corp in the United States, it is distributed locally by Trianon International Inc. Omeabloc is recommended to be taken as two to three softgels daily with food. Trianon welcomes provincial distributors, and interested parties may call Francis Melegrito, national sales manager, at 892-0723, 892-0724, 813-5433, 813-5436 or e-mail trianon@i-manila.com.ph.



MARIKINA SCHOOLS BENEFIT FROM FUND RAISING

Principals of Sto Nifio, San Roque, Malanday, Calumpang and Barangka Elementary Schools in Marikina City happily receive the Bright Minds Read school kit for their schools. With funds raised from donations of Marikina and McDonald's Marikina Sports Center (P1 for each spaghetti meal went to the Bright Minds Read Fund), six sets of 32 storybooks, teachers' lesson plans and student worksheets were turned over Aug. 1

by McDonald's Marikina owner Jessica Fernandez to Dr. Flordeliza Mayari, Marikina DECS superintendent. Bright Minds Read is a partnership program between McDonald's and the Department of Education-NCR to develop beginning reading for public school children. McDonald's is continuing the fund-raising to provide for 12 more public schools in Marikina City by year end.

Linden Halloween family package

COME AND ENJOY THE SCARIEST night of the year with your family at The Linden Suites! Treat and treat (because there are no tricks up our sleeves!), face painting activities for the kids, a Hallows Eve party, and rejuvenating moments at the Jacuzzi, sauna and heated indoor pool are in store for discriminating hotel guests.

The Linden Suites is the place to be this Halloween. Loads of fun and giveaways await guests. Let your family share in the Hallows Eve Fun! Avail yourselves of the hotel's special rate for a spacious, newly refurbished two-bedroom suite at P4,999.

The Linden Suites makes every occasion special by prioritizing guests' needs and preferences. Events and activities are made extra special by the personal touch and attention to detail of the hotel staff, a trademark of the hotel.

Feel the distinction of being a Linden Suites guest. Come and experience the difference of celebrating Halloween at The Linden Suites from now until Nov. 6. For inquiries and reservations, call 638-7878 or e-mail sales@linden-suites.com.

Soap label wins in Finat contest



TOUCH OF GRACE CARROT SOAP, A PRODUCT of GBC Business Ventures Corp, joined the league of world-class label designs after it was adjudged one of the winning entries in the prestigious Finat International Label Competition concluded recently in Baveno, Italy. Touch of Grace's Carrot Soap box bested other entries from member countries of the Belgium-based Finat in the carton and promotional labels category.

Finat, which stands for Federation Internationale des Fabricants et Transformateurs d'Adhesif et Thermocollants sur Papiers et Autres Supports, counts over 500 members from 40 countries. Aside from the Finat award, the label design also received an international award from the Tag and Label Manufacturer's Institute (TMLI), the biggest label and tag association in North America based in Naperville, Illinois. Shown is GBC president Grace B. Chan (right) showing her plaque, together with Kimbell Pack Inc's Kimberly Tiu who designed and fabricated the award-winning label. Tiu's company Kimbells Pack is a perennial winner in international label competitions every year. Chan said, "to be singled out from among numerous entries in international competitions like Finat and TMLI is not only a recognition of Filipino talent and craftsmanship in the field of label design but also an opportunity to showcase Filipino products, Touch of Grace, in particular, which we aim to market internationally." Touch of Grace products consist of soap, shampoo, lotion, scalp massage and massage oil plus pure virgin coconut oil, all using Evco (extra virgin coconut oil), extracted through the so-called cold process that ensures the highest quality.



EVENT MANAGER FOR BIGGEST TTE NAMED

The Philippine Travel Agencies Association (PTAA), acknowledged as the national association and most prestigious travel organization in the country and organizer of the TravelTour Expo, recently appointed Fairs & More Inc as the event manager of the 13 TravelTour Expo scheduled from Feb. 10 to 12, 2006 at the SM Megatrade Halls. The TravelTour Expo is the biggest expo

for the travel and tourism industry. The TTE 2006 theme is 'Travel Lifestyle: Experience the Difference', and this event will be the biggest TravelTour Expo since its inception. Signing the agreement are (from left) Marciano Ragaza, PTAA president, Lucille Chabeldin, TravelTour Expo organizing committee chair, and Elaine Garcia-Gatchalian, VP and COO of FMI.

ProductFiles

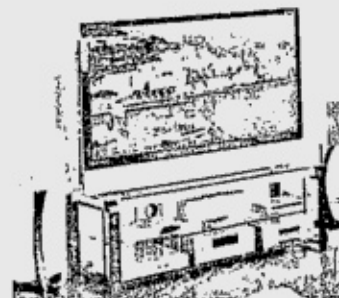
Home entertainment furniture

BELLO'S CONTEMPORARY furniture with Italian and modern continental design is the crowning touch for any premium quality audio/video or home theater component, and its modern furniture complements virtually any decor.

When it comes to home theater furniture, Bell'O provides a distinct flair of Italian contemporary design with its unique TV stands, speaker stands, and multipurpose audio/video furniture.

Bell'O offers a full line of audio/video furniture, audio furniture, home theater furniture, and entertainment centers, including plasma TV stands, DLP stands, LCD, projection TV stands, speaker stands, and TV stands. Home theater furniture ensembles accommodate plasma, DLP, projection and standard TV monitors as well as additional audio/video components.

Bell'O contemporary furniture is constructed of combinations of three different types of cover with a high impact, scratch resistant, powder-coated finish. Shelves are



perforated metal or high-quality tempered safety glass, and are designed to accommodate all your home theater components in any home setting. Bell'O also features the patented Cable Management System (CMS) for securely hiding power cords and interconnecting cables, keeping your home theater looking great.

In the Philippines, Bell'O is exclusively distributed by Eleksis Marketing Corp. Bell'O Home Entertainment Furniture are displayed in all Bose outlets: Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center; Glorietta 3, Ayala Center; Festival Supermall, Alabang; SM North Edsa and Megamall; and Robinsons Place, Ermita.



PHILIPS DVD, TV PRODUCTS FOR PROMO WINNERS

Various state-of-the-art Philips DVD players, plus an impressive Philips Plasma TV were given away to the winners of Automatic Centre's Txt-A-Wish promo. The winners came from various parts of Metro Manila, such as Las Piñas, Alabang, Manila, Quezon City, Novaliches, Pasay, Mandaluyong and Makati, highlighting the extent of Automatic Centre's branches. The choice of Philips DVD

players as prizes demonstrates the continuing preference for the brand among consumers, as well as among appliance store owners who only want the best for their customers. Shown are (from left) Philips consumer electronics marketing manager John Tan Chong, winners Rommel Calapati and Jennifer Calibuso, and Automatic Centre business development manager Eric Lim.

Hair Loss 911 at Hairwear

AM I LOSING HAIR? FOR A FEW SECONDS, you wonder, as you stare at the alarming clump on the shower room drain or the few strands stuck to your hairbrush.

Actually, hair loss is inevitable and normal. In fact, it is natural to lose between 75 to 150 strands daily. Losing this amount of hair is part of the natural life cycle of hair, and it allows room for new hair to grow.

However, there is excessive hair loss and this is a condition that affects both men and women. There is a variety of causes, including advanced age, an inherited tendency to bald early, side effect to medications, Trichotillomania (i.e. hair abuse by incessant hair pulling), or faulty hair treatments. But most hair thinning is a gradual process, and the most common cause is Male/Female Pattern Baldness.

But fret no more!

Frannie Villanueva of Hairwear Creative Hair Systems says that the first step in addressing hair loss is confirming the source of the problem. So which treatment is best for you? "There are basically three hair replacement options available today. You can wear a hair system, get hair restoration surgery or try drugs and topical treatments", Villanueva explains.

For those with fine, dehydrated and brittle hair, Hairwear recommends the Hair and Scalp Fitness Treatment using a special patented formulation to transport key ingredients to your scalp and hair. There are three main components of this procedure: the scalp cleaner, the hair fitness solution and the galvanic instrument. These help restore fullness and shine for healthy, youthful looking hair.

Hairwear offers an entire range of hair care treatments, services and products that include non-surgical hair replacement, hair and scalp therapy programs, and premium hair care products. Should the individual require a hair system, Hairwear provides top quality systems that offer the ultimate in undetectability.

At Hairwear, only the finest human hair is selected for color, texture, density, length, and movement. All hair strands are hand tied, not machine injected, giving longer life to the piece. You will get visible scalp beneath the hair, from the hairline through the crown, and the capability of the hair to turn and toss in wind, rain, and water. The hairpiece may be worn while you are on the field or engaging in sports; it can be washed, blow dried, ironed, colored, or even permed. For inquiries, call Hairwear at 414-5957/376-2427.

Successive pregnancies increase risks

DOCTORS HAVE WARNED women against getting pregnant soon after giving birth. According to a study headed by Cambridge University Professor Gordon Smith, short intervals between pregnancies increase the risks of complications such as premature deliveries, giving birth to underweight babies and even the death of the infant. Doctors said that while the risks of these complications happening were small, women should be made aware of them.

Women who have just given birth are advised to use some form of contraception to avoid unplanned pregnancy. Lactational Amenorrhea Method (LAM), the absence of menstruation while the mother is breastfeeding is an effective mode of contraception for up to six months post partum and provided that it is practiced properly. Beyond six

months, LAM may no longer be as reliable and a back-up method of contraception like the use of hormonal contraception is needed. When a woman is breastfeeding and wants to use hormonal contraception, an estrogen-free method is advisable.

"Mothers can start taking an estrogen-free pill as early as three to four weeks after giving birth. It is proven to have no adverse effect on lactation and growth of newborns. They can continue using the pill even after deciding to stop breastfeeding. To avoid the complications of successive pregnancies, it is very important that women give their bodies enough time to recover after their previous pregnancy," says obstetrician and gynecologist Dr. Sylvia Santos. For more information, consult your Ob-Gyne or call 817 7638 or text 0917-8523350, or e-mail cerazette@organon.ph.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 28, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31	30.5	31	357,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	52.5	51	52	1,522,500
China Banking Corp.	610	610	610	610	600
Citibank Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.55	0.57	0.55	0.57	1,120,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48	48	47.5	48	199,300
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	211,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	27	26	26	422,000
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	1,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	31	30.5	31	25,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	1,300
Manulife Financial Corp.	2825	2825	2825	2825	160
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	9,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	20
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2010	2000	2010	1,750
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	15,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.9	0.69	0.89	1,340,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	705	710	705	705	6,200
Iloilo City Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	50,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	5,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.049	0.047	0.049	200,000
Philippine Tel. Corp.	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.9	1,123,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1680	1680	1675	1675	1,650,000
Varigale Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	11,600,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	1,900
POWER, ENERGY & UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	1,900
Manila Electric Co. B	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	11,400
Manila Water Corp.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	1,280,000
Petrone Corp.	3.35	3.4	3.35	3.4	1,079,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.97	0.99	0.97	0.99	90,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.3	9.5	9.3	9.4	511,000
Kapitel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.66	140,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	29,041,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.54	1,510,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.55	3.6	3.55	3.55	1,374,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Glaxo San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5	159,400
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	40,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	65	64	65	16,000
San Miguel Corp. B	89	90	89	90	224,000
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	15.75	15.75	200,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,490,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	287.5	290	287.5	290	95,570
Abotit Equity Ventures	4.95	5	4.95	4.95	2,025,000
Ajo Nat Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	2,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.12	2.12	873,000
APC Group Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	170,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97	1,900,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	350,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	940,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	3	3	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	880,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	43	42.5	42.5	274,200
House Of Investments Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	3,560,000
Ionics Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	66,000
J. S. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.95	4	3.95	4	1,845,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.4	1,138,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	8,410,000
Paxys Inc.	5.1	5.1	5	5	64,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.215	0.19	0.215	120,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	229	220	227	451,060

Seafont Resources Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	60,000
Unitel Res. & Holdings Co	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	2,500,000
Unitel Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	5,630,000
Wolux Industries Inc.	0.115	0.125	0.115	0.125	680,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	38,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	90,000
Mebuway Vinyl Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	510,000
Accessite Phils Hotel Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	1,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.75	0.75	100,000
Lalsum & Resorts Corp.	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.44	275,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	30,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	89,100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	26,000
Far Eastern University	610	610	610	610	400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.9	4,735,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	8,600,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	160,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	1,120,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	2,349,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.21	0.195	0.21	230,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	800,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.9	307,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	20,000
SM Development Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	45,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.9	7.5	7.9	18,871,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	98,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev'l	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	101,000
Lapanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	2,100,000
Lapanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	2,360,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	196,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	7,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	8,000,000
Phil Mining Corp. A	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	560,000
Phil Mining Corp. B	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.22	7,089,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	25.5	25.5	116,700
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	20,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	6,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	160,000
Sinophill Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	500,000

EPCIBank to sell contested shares

By Doris C. Dumlaog

EQUITABLE PCIBANK WILL DISPOSE of 10.84 percent of its own equity held by subsidiary EBC Investments Inc. by farming out the controversial shares to stockholders, in compliance with a new Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas order.

In an interview Friday night, EPCIBank chair Ferdinand Martin Romualdez said the bank's board had already agreed in principle to retire these shares or take them off the books of both EPCIBank and EBCII, after the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board affirmed previous orders to sell the 78.8 million shares.

The BSP has given EPCIBank 30 days to comply with its order to dispose of the shares.

The other BSP-mandated option is to immediately sell the shares, but Romualdez said doing so would involve a more tedious negotiation process and may not be feasible at present.

"We will fully comply with the order and the best option is the reversal of the transaction from EPCIBank and EBCII books," Romualdez said.

The EPCIBank chair said the retirement of the shares means that they would be distributed to all shareholders who would thus get additional shares at no cost but on a pro-rated basis. Shareholders will thereby increase their stakes by 10.84 percent across-the-board.

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PELAC Global Bond Fund	US\$ 1,006,130	US\$ 1,004,785

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. The insurance portion is regulated by the Insurance Commission. PHILAM EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY

PPA posts ...

From page B2

"There were less foreign vessels this year but it seems that domestic traffic compensated," according to the finance head of the PPA.

There are more than 100 ports in the country catering to around 52 million passengers and more than 146 million metric tons of cargo each year.

Dizon said that the government had reduced its fees on roll-on, roll-off vessels to encourage the use of Roro.

About 60 percent of the revenue came from Manila ports.

A big portion of the PPA's earnings come from the South and North Harbor which are being operated by Asian Terminal Inc. and the International Container Terminal Services Inc.

International Container Terminal Services Inc., the country's largest port operator, said last week that it had broken for the fourth straight year the one million TEU-mark (twenty-foot equivalent unit) at the Manila port.

The company, which is controlled by the family of Enrique Razon, said that since it started operations at the Manila International Container Terminal in 1989, it had already handled over 13 million TEUs.

A TEU is a measure of containerized cargo equal to a standard size of 20 foot length of 8 ft. width and 8.5 ft. in height. Most containers today are of the 40-ft variety referred to as two TEUs or one FEU or forty-foot equivalent units.

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631-2611 / 631-4793**Korean eyes ...**

From page B1

chosen Subic over other possible locations in Vietnam and China.

In a related development, the government is in talks with Taiwanese officials on possible funding for the development of the second and third phases of the Subic Bay Industrial Park.

Romulo V. Manlapig, deputy resident representative at the Manila Economic and Cultural Office, said in an interview the proposed funding would be used to put up infrastructure as well as provide loans for Taiwanese investors that would locate in Subic.

"Taiwan officials have been (calling for a strengthening of) the 'Go South' campaign and we want to persuade them to put something on these pronouncements," Manlapig said.

First announced in 1994,

Taipei's "Go South" policy was meant to reduce dependence on mainland China and encourage Taiwanese businesses to invest in Southeast Asia.

Manlapig said Meco was helping the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority to secure the funding through Taiwan's International Cooperation Development Fund.

Arreza said in a separate interview that the SBMA had in 1994 secured from Taiwan a 20-year concessionary loan of \$23 million to develop the 100-hectare SBIP Phase 1.

"(For additional funding), SBPI needs \$8 million for the 37-hectare Phase 2 alone," he said. "We also want funding for Phase 3, which has at least 75 hectares and can be extended to 120 hectares." Ronnel W. Domingo

Sluggish ...

From page B1

Online broker 2TradeAsia.Com said in a weekly report that the market seemed more energetic last week with trades hitting P1 billion.

"Its longevity will partly depend on the market's (reaction to) the US Federal Reserve's upcoming policy meeting early November," 2TradeAsia said.

AB Capital Securities said in its weekly report that the market managed to post four consecutive days of gains. The main-index jumped 38 points or 2 percent to end the week at 1,960.22.

Shares of companies linked to retail tycoon Henry Sy led the past week's gains. Sy's flagship company SM Investments Corp. jumped 4.1 percent while mall operator SM Prime Holdings surged 8.2 percent.

SMIC had said it would raise new debt worth P5 billion through a notes issue to settle a loan used to raise its stake in San Miguel Corp. to 10.8 percent and push up its holdings in third largest Equitable PCI Bank by 24.76 percent.

Meanwhile, corporate earnings for the third quarter failed to entice buying activity given that the results were mixed, AB Capital Securities said.

It said, however, that third-quarter profit reports might take the limelight this week along with the implementation tomorrow of the expanded value-added tax, a key measure that is seen to ease the country's severe fiscal problem.

ANNOUNCEMENT

INQUIRER branch offices
will be closed on
MONDAY, October 31
TUESDAY, November 1
and will resume on
WEDNESDAY, November 2, 2005.



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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
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ITB# PRO4B-05-002

The PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B (PRO IV-B) invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Computers and Printers.

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2	Laserjet Printer	5	Ref. No. PRO4B-05004	100,000.00
3	Printer Dot Matrix	6	Ref. No. PRO4B-05005	180,000.00

Budget for the subject contracts for bid shall be sourced from the internal corporate operating budget (COB CY2005) of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

Bidding documents can be secured from the BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT, ADMIN. DEPT., PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B, #89 PSDC Bldg., P. Burgos corner Alegre Sts., Batangas City, during regular office hours starting October 24, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of two thousand one hundred eighty pesos (Php 2,180.00). A Pre-bid Conference will be held on Nov. 9, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. at the 3rd Floor, Conference Room.

Deadline for submission of bids will be on Nov. 21, 2005 on or before 11:00 a.m. to the BAC Secretariat at the Admin. Dept. Opening of bids will follow at 2:00 p.m. at the 3rd Floor, Conference Room. Late bids will not be accepted.

The BAC shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

To guarantee the faithful performance by the winning bidder of his/her obligations under the contract prepared in accordance with the bidding documents, he/she shall post a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amount:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be
Cash, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Bank Draft	One percent (1%) per lot
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%) per lot

For more information, contact the BAC Secretariat at Telephone no. 723-8822 local 201 & 204.

PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) CIRILO C. BALMACEA
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI- Oct. 24 & 31, 2005)

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We Lovingly Remember
JOSE (Pepito) I. TORRES

On the 10th Death Anniversary
 who passed away on October 31, 1995

We, the family requests relatives, friends,
 and pious readers to pray for the eternal
 repose of his soul.

DEATH NOTICE

JESUSA DUNGCA DAVID

Passed away on October 27, 2005.
 Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish,
 Poblacion Road, Muntinlupa City.
 Interment will be on Nov. 5, 2005 at
 Laloma Catholic Cemetery.

EUFROSINA S. BATERINA

Died in the grace of our Lord
 on October 28, 2005 at the age of 85.
 Her body lies in state at no. 29 Apo St.,
 Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City.
 Interment will be announced later.

FILOMENO PICO

Joined his Creator on Oct. 26, 2005
 at the age of 91.
 His remains lie in state at the Loyola
 Memorial Chapels, Edsa, Makati City.
 Interment will be on Friday,
 November 4 at Manila Memorial Park,
 Sucat, Parañaque.

Dominga Macazo Gimarino

the widow of the late Atty. Rafael Q. Gimarino

Peacefully joined her Creator
 on October 26, 2005 at the age of 86.

Her bereaved family: Fr. Mike, Gigi and Raffy Cruz, Rolly
 and Bettina, Cathy and Safwat Farag, Joy and Arthur
 Andan, Atty. Butch and Helen, Maritess and Max de
 Vries, Bebot and Yolli, Mimil and Joseph Kodumal, Raul
 and Venus; grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives
 and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal
 repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Gimarino's residence, Candulung,
 Ronda, Cebu City. Tomorrow, November 1, 2005 her remains
 will be transferred to the Sacred Heart Parish Church,
 Jacosalem St. Cebu City for the last wake.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 2, 2005 at the
 Ronda Catholic Cemetery after the 8:00 am Mass at
 the Carmelites Monastery, Mabolo, Cebu City.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- ❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
- ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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CLASSIFIEDS



Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
 Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

GRAINS HANDLING SERVICES FOR NFA CEBU, BOHOL,
 NEGROS ORIENTAL & SIKUJOR - REGION VII

HANDLING SERVICES OF 1,807,000 BAGS GRAINS STOCKS WITHIN NFA WAREHOUSES

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, through its Corporate Budget for 2005 intends to apply the sum of SIX MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY SIX THOUSAND PESOS (P 6,486,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Grains Handling Services for Cebu, Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor of NFA Region VII. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Grains Handling Services of NFA Region VII. Delivery of GOODS is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2006, or upon completion of the services for the volume of 1,807,000 bags, whichever is applicable. The grains handling services comprise the following:

PROVINCE	LOT #	LOCATION	VOLUME (Bags of 50 kgs)	ABC (P)
CEBU	1	BOGO	168,000	504,000.00
	2	BADIAN	154,000	462,000.00
	3	STA. FE	168,000	504,000.00
	4	TUDELA	154,000	462,000.00
		TOTAL	644,000	1,932,000.00
BOHOL	5	TAGBILARAN	500,000	2,000,000.00
		CARMEN	20,000	80,000.00
		UBAY	40,000	160,000.00
		TOTAL	560,000	2,240,000.00
NEG. ORIENTAL	6	DUMAGUETE	380,000	1,368,000.00
		GUIHULNGAN	120,000	432,000.00
		TOTAL	500,000	1,800,000.00
SIKUJOR	7	SIKUJOR	103,000	514,000.00
		TOTAL	1,807,000	6,486,000.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country's laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents. Instructions to Bidders (ITB). The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect the Bidding Documents of NFA, Banilad, Cebu City starting October 31 to November 8, 2005 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be reviewed personally by the prospective Bidder or his duly authorized representative.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on November 9, 2005 @ 2:00 PM at NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on November 22, 2005 not later than 10:00 AM. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof:

Form of Security Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be bid
 Cash / Cashier's / Managers Check One Percent (1%)
 payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank in Cebu City or
 Surety Bond issued by SGS marked "Callable on Demand" Two & a Half Percent (2.5%)
 Bid opening shall be on November 22, 2005 @ 10:00 AM at NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City
 Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bidding. Late Bids shall not be accepted

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
PIOLITO C. SANTOS
 Banilad, Cebu City
 032-232-1939
 email address: nlaro7@cvls.net.ph
 032-233-6095
 website: www.nfacabu.net.ph

(Sgd.) PIOLITO C. SANTOS
 FBAC Chairman/ARD

(PDI - October 31 & November 7, 2005)

**ICD COUNCIL MEETING IN TAIPEH**

The International College of Dentists (ICD), a leading honorary dental organization dedicated to the recognition of outstanding professional achievement, meritorious service and the continued progress of the profession of dentistry for the benefit of mankind, held its Council Meeting from September 9-11 at the Taipei Howard Plaza Hotel. Shown in photo from left are Dr. Primo Gonzales, past president of ICD International and concurrently ICD (Philippine Section) International councilman, Dr. Robert Bradley, secretary-general of ICD, Dr. Lon Carroll, ICD President, Mrs. Violeta J. Villareal and her husband, Dr. Hermogenes P. Villareal, president of ICD (Philippine Section), and Dr. Chao Chang Chan, president-elect of ICD.



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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (RE-BID)

The Department of Education Division Office, through its Division Bids and Awards Committees (BAC's), invites suppliers/manufacturers/ distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT : Supply and Delivery of Elementary Tables & Chairs and Secondary Armchairs
 LOCATION : Various Division Offices of the Department of Education
 BRIEF DESCRIPTION : Lot A : Elementary Tables & Chairs (CY2004)
 Lot B : Secondary Armchairs (CY2004)
 Lot C : Elementary Tables & Chairs (CY2005)
 Lot D : Secondary Armchairs (CY2005)
 ABC & FUNDING SOURCE : Funding Source is the Government of the Philippines (GOP), CY2004 and CY2005
 General Appropriations Act (GAA) (75% Allocation)
 CONTRACT DURATION : One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days
 DELIVERY SITES : "Door to door" delivery to various recipient schools
 (See Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents)

PROCURING ENTITY		APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)							
DepED Division Office	Address (See Deped Website for details)	CY 2004				CY 2005			
		Lot A (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot B (Secondary Armchairs)		Lot C (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot D (Secondary Armchairs)	
		Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount
REGION III		1,160	1,392,000.00	—	—	2,860	2,472,000.00	—	—
1 BATAAN	Barangay Bataan	1,160	1,392,000.00	—	—	2,860	2,472,000.00	—	—
REGION IV-A		3,506	4,207,200.00	4,146	2,280,300.00	7,782	8,338,400.00	12,336	6,784,800.00
1 QUEZON	Talipapa Pagbilao Quezon	3,506	4,207,200.00	4,146	2,280,300.00	7,782	8,338,400.00	12,336	6,784,800.00
REGION VI		1,125	1,350,000.00	—	—	353	423,600.00	2,713	1,508,400.00
1 BACOLOD CITY	Bacolod City Neg. Occ.	1,125	1,350,000.00	—	—	353	423,600.00	2,713	1,508,400.00
REGION XI		2,220	2,664,000.00	5,210	2,865,900.00	3,628	4,353,600.00	7,092	3,900,600.00
1 DAVAO CITY	Davao City	2,220	2,664,000.00	5,210	2,865,900.00	3,628	4,353,600.00	7,092	3,900,600.00
CORDILLERA ADMIN. REG. (CAR)		360	432,000.00	954	194,700.00	440	528,000.00	1,477	812,350.00
1 ABRA	Benquet, Abra	360	432,000.00	354	194,700.00	440	528,000.00	1,477	812,350.00
2 APAYAO	Knbugao, Apayao	151	181,200.00	—	—	650	780,000.00	—	—
3 BAGUIO CITY	Baguio City	272	326,400.00	1,083	595,650.00	815	736,000.00	—	—
4 IFUGAO	Lagayan, Ifugao	310	372,000.00	400	220,000.00	957	868,400.00	1,219	670,450.00
5 KALINGA	Tabuk, Kalinga	625	750,000.00	864	475,200.00	1,200	1,440,000.00	1,005	552,750.00
GRAND TOTAL		9,050	10,860,000.00	10,884	5,595,925.00	15,774	18,920,800.00	24,750	13,618,000.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The DepED Division Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all prospective bidders on November 09, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Division Office.

Bids must be received on or before November 22, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Division Office. Late Bids shall be rejected.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract per Lot shall be rejected.

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of not more than Two Thousand Pesos Only (Php2,000.00) to the Division Office's Cashier.

The Department of Education, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA
 Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

Date of Publication : October 24 & 31, 2005
 Newspaper : Philippine Daily Inquirer

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JOB
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NFA buying stations open to serve farmers

SOME 530 BUYING STATIONS HAVE BEEN opened nationwide by the National Food Authority to initially serve farmers who will sell their palay produce to the agency this main harvest season, according to NFA administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. "Aside from these buying stations, other procurement logistics and our personnel have been mobilized for intensive palay buying," he said. Tan also said a procurement fund of P84.89 M is allocated for the agency's field offices for buying operations nationwide from September to December this year. Additional procurement fund shall be remitted soon to cover the targeted volume for the period. The NFA chief informed that the agency has set high procurement targets in top palay

producing provinces as it expects farmers will take advantage of the high support price and additional incentives the NFA grants. The NFA buys clean and dry palay from the main cropping at P10 per kg, exclusive of the P0.50 per kg incentives for drying, delivery and cooperative fund. Southern Luzon has the highest procurement target for the month among the regions at 344,500 bags. This is followed by Central Mindanao with 142,500 bags and Cagayan Valley with 121,400 bags. Tan expressed optimism that this year's main crop will greatly contribute to the country's food security requirements until early next year. Meanwhile, NFA has set a palay procurement target of 906,500 bags for the month of October.

BUSINESS

DA cuts corn production goal for 2005

2nd semester output seen higher but not enough to cover decline in H1

THE COUNTRY'S CORN OUTPUT this year is expected to fall short of the target by 200,000 tons due to a dryspell that hit some corn-producing regions.

The Department of Agriculture scaled down its corn production target for the year to 5.2 million metric tons from 5.4 million metric tons.

Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban said production in the second semester of the year could be higher than the target, but the increase would just be enough to offset the 15-18 percent production loss caused by the drought in the first half.

The tight supply situation will likely translate to better corn prices at the farmgate, said Panganiban.

The country's major corn produc-

tion areas in Luzon, particularly Cagayan Valley, had been severely damaged by the drought.

The decline in corn output is not expected to be felt strongly due to a contraction in demand.

Also, Agriculture corn program director Jesus Binamira, in a separate interview, noted that there had been very minimal movement of corn from Mindanao to Luzon due to the doubling of freight costs, which was blamed on rising oil prices.

Binamira said livestock producers in Luzon, who are the direct buyers of corn for feeds would not buy from Mindanao corn producers if their prices were not lower by more than P2 per kilo than those available in Luzon.

The Bureau of Agricultural Statis-

tics said that based on its survey, almost half of the country's corn producing regions would likely post production increases in the second semester.

"But it will be very difficult to meet the full-year target unless there is a dramatic surge in production in the second half," according to the national farmers group Philippine Maize Federation Inc. president Roderico Bioco.

"Our corn farmers are reporting a steady increase in prices, especially in key-corn producing areas in Luzon, such as Bulacan, Batangas, Isabela and Cagayan Valley," said Bioco.

Corn prices have firmed up at P9.20 P9.50 per kilo at the farmgate, noted Bioco.



QUALITY CHECK

Trade and Industry Secretary Peter B. Favila and Vice President Noli de Castro conduct a spot inspection of a hardware store in Barangay Karuhatan, Valenzuela City to make sure that construction materials comply with appropriate standards.

RP to hold air talks with ME countries

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES WILL INITIATE air talks with Middle East countries in the coming months to allow carriers of the oil-rich region to increase their flights to the country, said Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

Mendoza said he had met with Gulf Air officials last week and that the executives of the airline brought up their plan to expand the airline's operations in the Philippines if its flight entitlement would be raised.

"Gulf Air wants six additional flights from Manila to Bahrain and six to Oman," said Mendoza in an interview.

Gulf Air, the Middle East's oldest airline, currently flies nine times weekly to Manila from Abu Dhabi, Bahrain and Oman. The airline is transforming itself into one that reaches out to all types of passengers.

"We would like the Philippine government to revisit its bilateral deals with Bahrain and Oman to increase the frequency," said Gulf Air president James Hogan in an interview.

Mendoza, however, said that the problem was that the existing Manila airports were filled to the brim. The new Ninoy Aquino International Airport will open next year.

"In the meantime, we offered them Clark, Cebu and Davao," said the transport chief. "But Clark is too small for regular aircraft." The airport at the former American military base accommodates mostly low-cost carriers.

Gulf Air said Manila had continued to be a viable market for Middle East carriers. Its country manager Roberto Hukom said Filipinos going to the Middle East accounted for 85 percent of the airline's bought seats.

The Middle East carrier has a 90-percent average load factor from Manila and back, according to Hukom.

Gulf Air will fly thrice a week to Ireland and to Johannesburg in South Africa from Bahrain starting December. Eventually, flights to the two new destinations would increase to between five and seven a week.

Hogan estimated that of the Bahrain-Ireland flights, 20 percent would come from Manila.

Gulf Air had also discussed possible code-sharing arrangements with Philippine Airlines. PAL has some unused frequencies to the Middle East.

"Frequency and connectivity is the key issue. Our objective in any route is to fly at least seven times a week because a daily flight is important," he explained.

ADB launches peso bond

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK helped perked up the fledgling Philippine capital market last week, launching a landmark P2.5 billion peso-denominated bond issue, and paving the way for more triple A-rated institutions to take a second look at this market.

The ADB's offering represented many firsts in the local capital market: The first triple-A rated local currency issue, the first local issue by a foreign entity and the first "supranational" issue.

Priced at 65.31 percent on Friday, the ADB bond carry a yield of 8.7 percent. UK-based banking giant HSBC was the sole lead manager and bookrunner.

"The bond issue underscores ADB's confidence in the Philippine capital market. This, together with the new standards created through this issue in respect of regulatory framework and documentation, may facilitate issuance by other non-resident borrowers in the country," said ADB vice president Khempheng Pholsena.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the BSP has received inquiries from more multilateral institutions for similar local currency issues.

Pholsena said the ADB was hoping that the issue would add to issuer and product diversity in the Philippine capital market.

The proceeds of the bond issue will be used for a peso-denominated loan to Balikatan Housing Inc., a special purpose vehicle jointly owned by National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. and Deutsche Bank.

BHI was set up for the purchase and resolution of a portfolio of non-performing loans from NHMFC.

Pholsena said the project would have significant benefits for the Philippines like supporting the government's initiatives in the area of financial sector and housing finance reforms; directly strengthening the financial position of the Social Security System and Home Development Fund and providing much needed liquidity to the Philippine pension system; playing a pioneering and catalytic role in the nascent asset market in the Philippines; and enabling highly delinquent borrowers of NHMFC to restructure their obligations.



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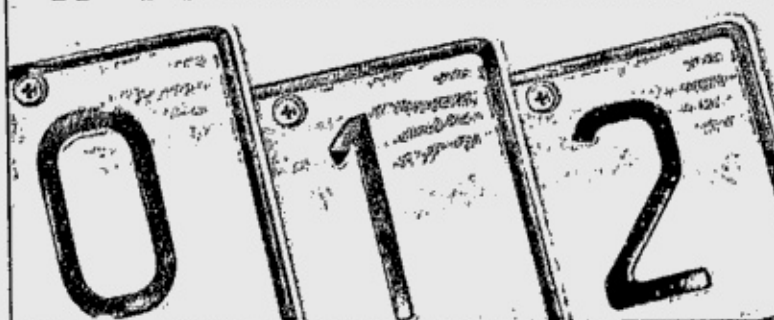
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Sixty years on the road

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SIXTY YEARS SPELL retirement for most people, the end of the road of a life well spent for some.

But for Victory Liner Inc., the Philippines largest bus company, it feels like the voyage has just begun, even after six decades of moving people better and safer.

Marivic de Jesus, treasury and marketing chief of Victory Liner, says that while the company revels in being compared to the famous American Greyhound Line, Victory Liner continues to strive to be on top of its game.

"We're always on our toes, making sure our buses run perfectly and on time and we're always looking for ways to make bus rides more comfortable and safe. Quality and innovation, that's our guiding light since our lolo founded this company," says de Jesus.

De Jesus is the granddaughter of Victory Liner founder Jose I. Hernandez Sr., a Bulacan mechanic who started Victory Liner from scrap metal and surplus engines

obtained from military vehicles abandoned by the US army who felt it cheaper to leave them here rather than bring them back home.

De Jesus says it was a family affair from the start with Hernandez himself as bus driver, his wife Marta as treasurer, and several in-laws acting as conductor (Leonardo D. Trinidad), relief driver (Santiago Crisostomo), helper (Eugenio Trinidad).

The company is still run by second and third-generation family members, all of whom have held on to the company's decades-old values, like being a stickler for quality parts, regular maintenance, and constant innovation.

The first of Victory Liner's low-profile *jardinera* buses plied the Manila-Olongapo route on October 15, 1945 with its first terminal located at the corner of Azcarraga St. (now Claro M. Recto Ave.) and Juan Luna St. in Divisoria, Manila.

Now, Victory Liner has a fleet of 720 buses (the biggest in the local industry) with eight hubs and eight passing stations serving Zambales, Cagayan Valley, Baguio and Pangasinan.

Hernandez named his bus line Victory from the Liberation's catchword "Victory Joe."

De Jesus says it was a bit ironic that his lolo's bus company ended up victorious against some American GIs who stayed behind for a crack at the business opportunity in the local transport sector.

De Jesus says Victory Liner had always had its eye on a bigger market beyond the Manila-Zambales route.

In 1953, Victory Liner expanded its operations with the acquisition of major bus companies in Luzon, including the TRY-V-Tran, then the largest bus company plying the Manila-Zambales route.

"We bought it with just a meager down payment and nothing but our *palabra de honor* to pay it in full," de Jesus says.

The company also did not waver from taking on the risk of riding through perilous roads routes, such as when it opened up a Manila-Cagayan routes following its acquisition of the Dacanay Express and Angat Transportation Co. in the 1970s.

Victory Liner president and general manager Johnny T. Hernandez considered this a bold move in view of the unstable peace and order situation in the region at that time.

De Jesus says his Uncle Johnny pushed the vision of their lolo further in the 80s, during which the company started purchasing real estate properties for future use in oper-



VICTORY Liner 1954 anniversary picture at the 1st Avenue Caloocan Terminal. The owners were like parents to the drivers, conductors, mechanics and office employees.

ations such as terminals, stations, meal stops, refueling stations and rest areas for passengers and crews.

Among its key properties are the four-storey terminal building in Olongapo, the Cubao terminal in New York-Edsa Cubao, and its pride—the Baguio depot which was patterned after New York's Grand Central Terminal and Port Authority.

The Baguio terminal is located close to a Microtel Inn & Suites, America's leading bed and breakfast provider, which is run by an affiliate company. De Jesus says the company's long-term goal was for the merger of lodging and bus facilities in Luzon.

De Jesus says Johnny Hernandez also organized and trained a team of mechanic-drivers and had always made it a point to keep his buses always in tip-top condition. Despite rising costs of replacement parts and lubricants, de Jesus said Victory Liner does not scrimp nor take short cuts when changing tires or changing oil.

"We can't lower our standards in the parts we use because we

know how embarrassing it is for the company to fail our passengers because of a flat tire or engine failure," de Jesus says.

Innovation

Victory Liner has one of the most modern maintenance facilities located in Capas, Tarlac and Baler, Quezon City equipped with the latest calibrating machine to control fuel exhaust pollution, modern hydraulic lifts for underbody inspection, and a recapping plant.

Aside from being a stickler for

quality, de Jesus says Victory Liner has always had penchant for introducing the latest automotive technology to distinguish itself from the competition.

It was not only a pacesetter in bus technology, de Jesus says Victory Liner was also the first to make passenger comfort a priority from serving snacks and refreshment on board to providing in-transit video entertainment beginning in the betamax years to comfort rooms in their luxury coaches.

SIXTY/ B2-3



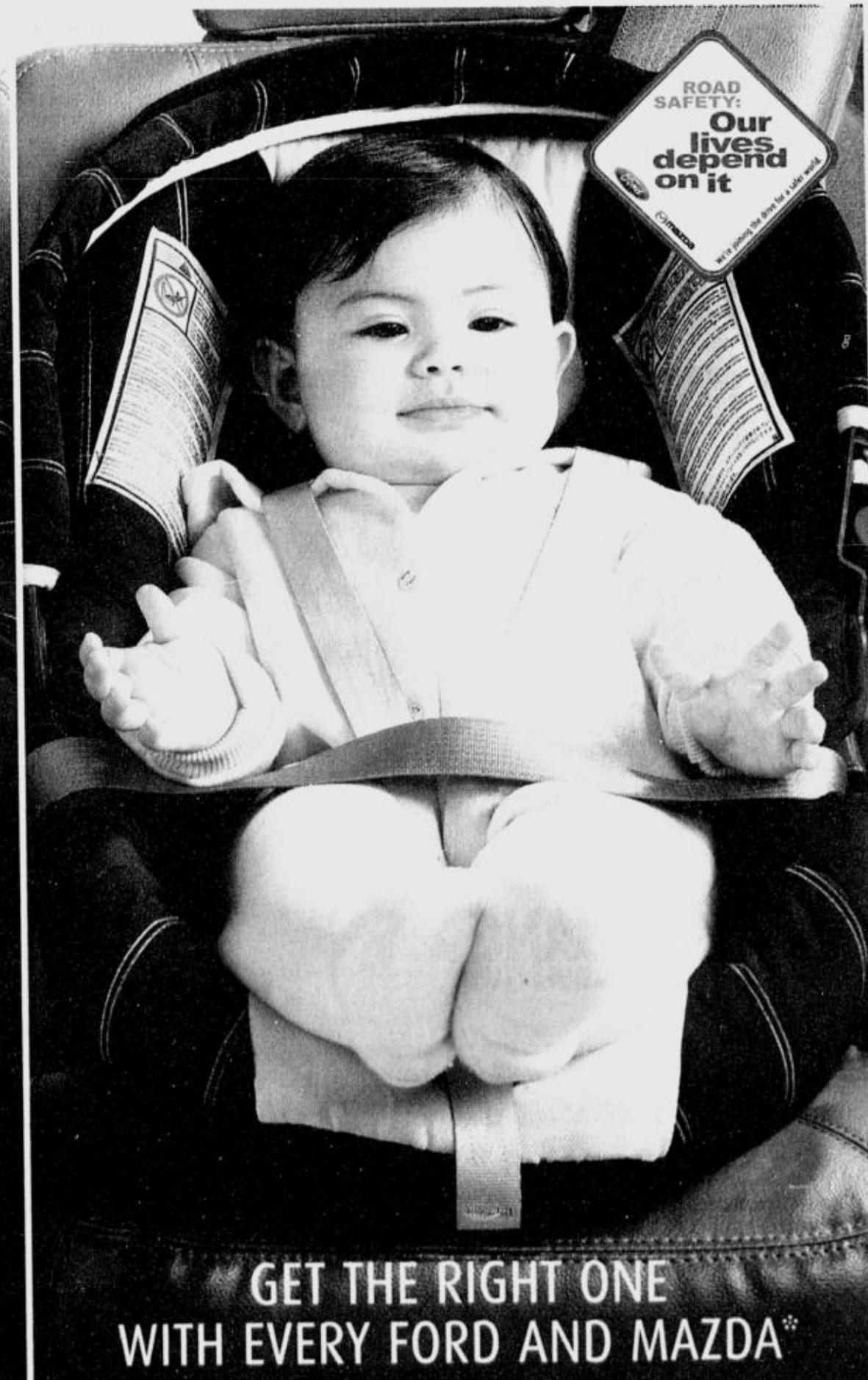
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Editor Leo Magno

Lawmaker to NTC: Why the mad rush to 3G?

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

CATANDUANES REPRESENTATIVE Joseph Santiago is puzzled over the mad rush to 3G (third-generation cellular technology), saying that local industry players have argued that the Philippines is not yet ready for this innovation in telecommunications.

Santiago is vice chair of the House committee on transportation and communications.

He singled out the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) in what he considers its over-enthusiastic push for 3G when conditions are not yet ripe for this new technology.

"Of course no one wants to be left behind. However, this could possibly be a case of the NTC stampeding everyone to commit financial self-destruction," Santiago warned in a statement.

NTC officials were unavailable for comment.

Santiago, also a former chief of the

NTC, reiterated that large European telecommunications companies were ruined financially after their regulators inopportunely set the stage for 3G, and hastily sold frequencies at sky-high prices through competitive bidding.

The inordinately high cost of securing frequencies and the massive capital spending for 3G networks brought down the telecommunications industries in some European countries, the congressman observed.

He believes the massive losses of European 3G infrastructure builders were aggravated when they did not have viable markets for their new and expensive networks.

The NTC has issued guidelines on the allocation of 3G frequencies on August this year. About seven local firms led by Globe Telecom have applied for 3G licenses.

Globe Telecom last week became the first Philippine mobile operator to formally apply for a license to operate a third-generation (3G) mobile network in the country. Globe has also become the first local telecommunications firm to comply with all of the government's 3G requirements.

Santiago insisted that local telecom-

munications firms were forced to apply for 3G licenses because the rules had been laid down.

Globe has particularly requested for the 1920-1940 MHz, 2110-2130 MHz paired radio frequency bands, with the 1960-1980 MHz, 2150-2170 MHz as second priority.

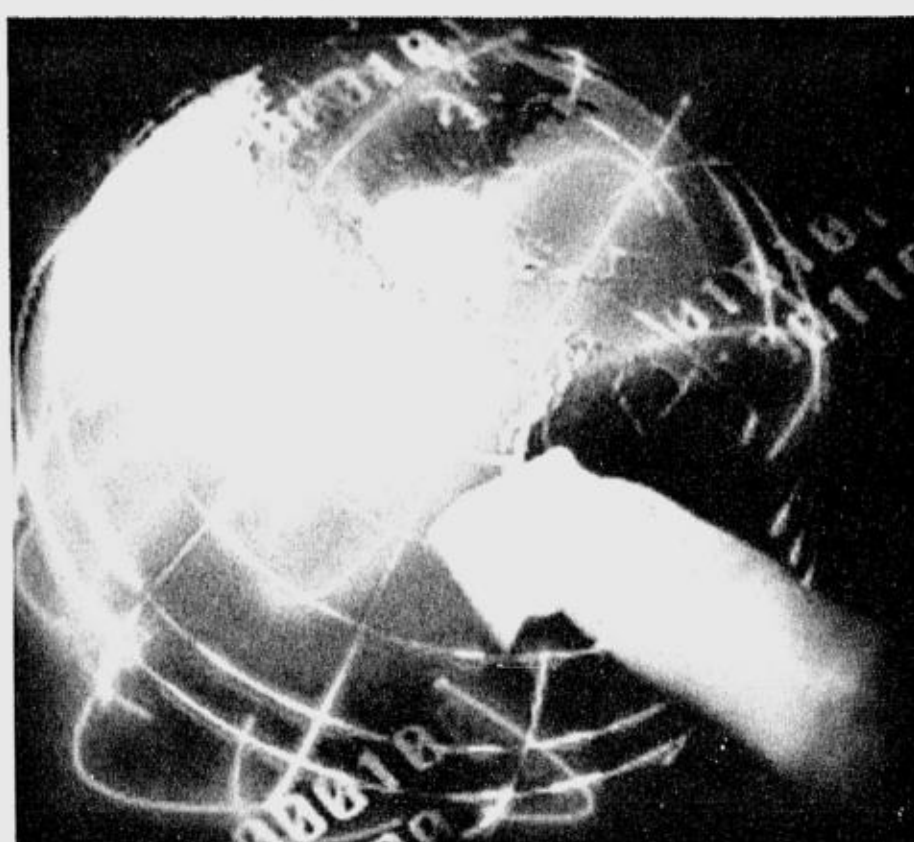
Globe needs the 3G frequency spectra for the planned upgrade of its current cellular mobile telephone system services to 3G.

The telco said that it would remit payment of the corresponding spectrum user fees and post a performance bond equivalent to P300 million to the NTC, in compliance with its rules and regulations on the allocation and assignment of 3G radio frequency bands.

Globe Telecom completed its first video calls over its 3G trial network in July this year, allowing not only voice but also full-motion real-time videos between two mobile subscribers.

The Ayala-owned company became the first Philippine operator to accomplish such a feat using a 3G trial permit and frequencies from the NTC. Currently, Globe has existing 3G roaming agreements with 3G operators abroad.

Globe has also submitted its five-year



3G-network rollout plan and schedule of rates for 3G services.

3G provides faster mobile networks, which paves the way for better connectivity and enhanced services like multimedia and mobile video.

With 3G technology and services, subscribers will not only hear, but see loved ones here and abroad as well as watch the news, TV shows, or sports highlights while mobile. Among other applications, the latest music can also be downloaded by users wherever and whenever the

mood strikes them.

Once the 3G frequencies are assigned, qualified telecommunications firms would be obliged to immediately spend a lot of capital, build their 3G networks, and start commercial operations by 2008.

Based on the NTC guidelines, firms getting 3G licenses would also have to promptly put up performance bonds worth P300 million, increase their paid-up capital, and pay user fees in the multi-million-peso spectrum.

Singaporean firm says it has acquired control of SunPhil

By Alex Villafania
Contributor

SINGAPOREAN FIRM FRONTLINE Technologies Corp. Ltd. said it had acquired control of Sun Microsystems Philippines (SunPhil), a joint venture with Sun Microsystems Inc. of California.

Frontline Technologies Corp. said in a disclosure to the Singapore Stock Exchange that it had increased its stake in IT Holdings Inc. (ITH), which holds a 51-percent stake in SunPhil, to 100 percent from 49 percent.

ITH will be renamed Frontline Technologies Philippines Inc., the Singapore-based firm said.

The management of Sun Microsystems' Philippine subsidiary is undergoing a transition

Frontline Technologies Corp. said it would buy the remaining 250,000 common shares in ITH from existing shareholders for \$800,000, of which it said \$250,000

would be paid in cash.

The remaining \$550,000 "will be paid over a period of three financial years subject to an 'earn out' condition whereby SunPhil will meet or exceed a net profit after a tax target of 1 million in each financial year," Frontline stated in its disclosure.

The chair of ITH is Mario O. Mamon. His wife, Cynthia, is SunPhil president. Neither was immediately available for comment.

A SunPhil spokesman said the company was waiting for the go-ahead from Sun Microsystems in the US before making any announcements.

Oracle expects identity management awareness boom

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

ORACLE CORP. IS EXPECTING A boom in demand for identity management and security applications among companies in the Asia Pacific region, excluding Japan, in the coming years, prompted by increased demand to comply with accounting and regulatory requirements from buyers in the US and European markets.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Law of the US or the Basel II banking regulations may not necessitate any inroads toward an Asian version that companies would have to follow. Instead, the likeliest reason is increased demand to comply with

rules of best practices in bigger companies.

"That demand in identity management and security is not due to any foreign law, but it is due to the requirements laid down by bigger companies for their business partners or suppliers in Asia," according to Oracle AP Senior Technology Solutions director Karim Mohamed.

At a briefing held here, Mohamed said many Asia Pacific companies are aware of the need to comply with best practices when it comes to identity management, primarily to help them conduct business with their bigger partners and extend relations with their primary partner's network.

"It's a concept of trust and Asian firms have to show that they can be trusted. Although Asian firms lagged behind the US companies in implementing strict identity management requirements, we're seeing that this industry would boom in the coming years," Mohamed said.

Citing figures from a Gartner Research report introduced last March, Mohamed said the Asia Pacific market for identity management software grew from 7.7 percent or \$73.3 million in 2002, to 8.1 percent or \$104.7 million in 2005.

He said this figure could balloon to 9.5 percent or \$222.7 million by 2009.

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Sixty ...

From page B2-1

Victory Liner also started some of the industry's now common passenger services such as freight and parcel services (since the 60s); queuing system for orderly boarding of buses; metal detectors for firearms and other deadly weapons for added security.

"We practically set the standard by which all buses operate in the country thanks largely to the vision of my lolo and uncle and management," de Jesus says.

Beginning in the 1990s, the third generation members of the Hernandez and Trinidad clans started filling up positions at Victory Liner, but only after logging in work experience from outside.

"This has always been our policy and it has worked well for us because we come in here well-equipped," says de Jesus who worked for a multinational marketing firm for four years before she joined Victory Liner in 1997.

Overcoming challenges

It was during this decade that Victory Liner faced several, largely natural crises—the earthquake in 1990, the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991, the withdrawal of the US Military Bases in 1992, the heavy lahar flows in 1995, and the Asian financial crisis in 1997—all of which exacted a heavy toll on their Luzon operations.

Not unlike the survival instincts of their forebears in the post-war era, the next generation management team undertook broad cost-cutting measures and tight control of its cash flows to keep their operations running.

But Victory Liner is still not out of the woods.

This year, de Jesus says Victory Liner is facing probably its most serious crisis in 60 years—the steep rise in fuel costs.

"Just do the math—our fuel expenses have increased by 50 percent and toll fees have jumped 613 percent from last year but our fares have only been raised by 15 percent," says de Jesus.

But with the guiding spirit of their lolo and the lessons learned from those who came before them, de Jesus says Victory Liner would ride out this storm, too.

Is the Philippines dying?

From page B2-4

ply measures that could address both their short-term and long-term needs. Applying short-term "band-aid" solutions will just be like running in place.

A potential cure?

One potential cure is the Gawad Kalinga (GK) Program.

Our GK Program in the Management Association of the Philippines has evolved into Kalinga IP, which aims to help IP communities build ecologically sound and sustainable villages. Our project, Kalinga IP Para Sa Aeta in sitio Sta. Rosa, barangay St. Nifio in Bamban, Tarlac, has commenced.

The vision we share with our Aeta sis-

ters and brothers is a community that is economically progressive, that promotes social equity and provides good quality of life to all. It practices sustainable lifestyle; preserves their culture that is consistent with sustainable development; and achieves sustainability through values formation and community empowerment; improved health and sanitation; ecologically sound livelihood; and education. Most of all, it is a community that cares for its members, as well as for others.

We hope to help the Aetas in Sta. Rosa build their eco-village with houses, common-use facilities; basic resources and services; and components that will provide livelihood opportunities while at the same time demonstrating good environmental

management practices, e.g., a bamboo farm.

A model in progress

GK's Executive Director Tony Meloto encourages us to aim for higher goals in GK community development, not just help build structures. Yes, we told him, we are aiming high with the Aeta Tribal Council headed by Zenaide Sanchez, to make Sta. Rosa a model sustainable village.

Many organizations and individuals have helped us. The Tsinoy Community, through the Kaisa Para Sa Kaunlaran Inc., is our principal partner in building the Kalinga IP Para Sa Aeta.

Through this project, we hope to demonstrate the shared vision of the Ae-

tas, MAP TOWNS Foundation, GK, Kaisa, and other partners for a better Philippines. This project and the bigger Kalinga IP Program are our contributions to poverty alleviation, caring for the IPs, ecological restoration, and nation-building.

The Philippines will not die. But, correcting or changing the defective political structure is only part of the cure. Any structure needs a strong foundation. A community, a nation must be built on love, caring, and respect for each other. The Kalinga IP and the GK movement are building that foundation.

(The author co-chairs MAP's Environment Committee. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

A lawyer's brain, an entrepreneur's heart

From page B2-4

from her school, a recognition of her giant contributions to a start-up called cyber law. In that same year, she left her big law office where she was a rising star to put up her own firm. Many of the Top 500 corporations in the Philippines, eager to start e-businesses but were unsure of the legal footing, sought her out, primarily for guidance on the legal haze called cyber law.

"I advised them on electronic transactions and provided them with the legal framework for online shopping, online trading, online banking, electronic contracting issues. In a sense, I was laying down the legal infrastructure for online contracts," according to Yam.

"The passage of the E-Commerce Law in 2001 validated all the work of the legal pioneers like myself," says Yam. Even before that though, Yam's trailblazing ways led Newsweek to include her in the news magazine's list of "The Rising Asian Women, New Faces of Success" which ran as a special edition in 2000.

She was alternately called the "First Filipino Cyber Lawyer" or "Premier Internet Lawyer." The foreign networks, including CNN, called for interviews on cyber is-

sues, and Yam, a former newscaster for a Philippine TV network, relished the reversal of roles—she was now providing the substance and not the other way around.

Yam co-founded Lawyer. Com. Phils. Inc., that stepped up the effort to promote digital issues. She spoke at technology conferences, before local and international technology and legal groups. She wrote several articles on technology, business and the law for a business daily. She found time to go to Harvard Law in 2000 to broaden her knowledge of cyber law.

Exploring new frontiers

In 2001, Yam was again gripped by the urge to explore other frontiers and travel into the unknown, literally. She left for Canada with her husband and two kids and resettled in Toronto.

The family was only three weeks in Canada and busy exploring the interesting spots there when a link up came: she was asked to urgent call with the Toronto office of her old employer—Baker and McKenzie—for a possible slot in the firm's intellectual property practice.

At Baker and McKenzie, Toronto, Yam did what she used to do in

the Philippines, only in a different context, where rip-offs and piracy were truly treated as scourge of society and commerce, and where the digital law environment was mature.

In preparation for the Ontario Bar, she enrolled at the Faculty of Law of the University of Toronto and she compiled her legal and professional portfolio. The impressive portfolio exempted her from the bar exams, the only Filipino lawyer to have been given that privilege in the Ontario province.

The brisk and steady movement of Asian entrepreneurs, Chinese and Indians mostly, into Canada, bringing with them awesome entrepreneurial savvy, yet opened another world for Yam to explore. One day she asked herself this question: What if I help bring Filipino talent into Canada so it can find a market big enough for that massive entrepreneurial drive? The lawyer and the entrepreneur in her quickly summed up the Canadian social and economic landscape: a big, booming market, excellent health and education infrastructure, probably the most livable place in the world, and, an entry point into the Nafta market.

She resigned from Baker and McKenzie and put up her own

shingle anew—this time specializing in helping Filipino investors set up shop in Canada.

The immigrant investors program, under which Yam has been successfully bringing in Filipino expertise and capital into Canada, does not mean the abandonment of the "old country" and the total and irrevocable parting away with the Filipino roots.

"It benefits both countries," according to Yam. Filipino entrepreneurs are placed in a big, strategic and vibrant market while doing their production work in the Philippines. The production and sourcing of products in the Philippines even generate new technologies," adds Yam.

Brain gain

Instead of the tragic "brain drain" that has sapped the country of its best and the brightest, the migration of entrepreneurs to Canada is a case of refreshing "brain gain," said Yam.

Yam is proud of her figures: roughly \$1 billion worth of jobs, technology and resources have been generated by Filipino immigrant investors Yam have guided through Canada at their Philippine production sites. "Only a few of the investors I have helped resettle had sev-

ered ties with the home country because of sheer desperation. Most of them produce their products in the Philippines, Canada is their immense trading ground," says Yam.

Filipino investors in garments, furniture and trading made up the initial wave of Yam's investor-clients. She is now arranging for joint ventures between Canadian and Filipino capital and job outsourcing opportunities.

Yam says that Canada is just the initial market and the possibilities are limitless for Filipinos with the drive, ambition and entrepreneurial skills.

"We are speaking here of the North American Free Trade Agreement and an entire Nafta market. Canada, the United States and Mexico make up an \$11.4 trillion market and a population of half a billion. No market, right now, can get as big as this," explains Yam, who is a member of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

Yam is also busy "identifying new realities" in the Canadian and global economic landscape, which can be explored by Filipino entrepreneurs.

"This represents the new sense of nationalism and it does not, in any way, betray my Tañada heritage," says Yam.

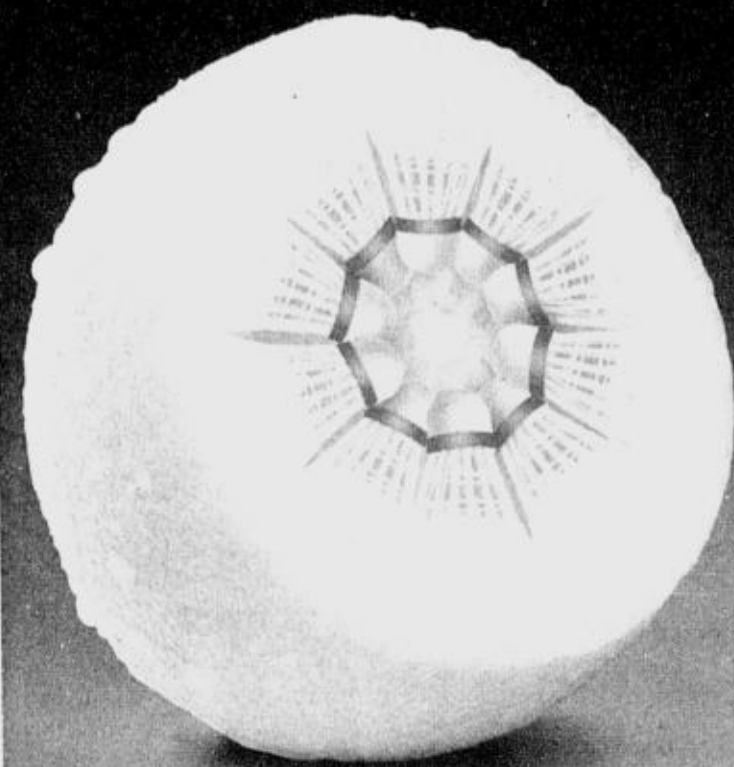
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A lawyer's brain, an entrepreneur's heart

HER BLOODLINE EVOKES IMAGES of the family patriarch and his deep sense of country, the grainy but cherished footage of his brilliance in the mainstream parliament, the clenched fists that moved the parliament of the streets, Rectonian nationalism and immovable tariffs.

Lawyer Josephine Victoria Tañada-Yam, granddaughter of revered Lorenzo Tañada, believes that she, in many sense, remains a proud bearer of that great family tradition though her current work is the anti-thesis of what the Tañadas are known to stand for. It involves crisscrossing the globe to promote immigration and investments from her base in Toronto. And her previous work was to trail blaze in shaping cyber laws in the Philippines, pioneering in the then murky, uncharted field of legal dot com.

Her life has been about shattering borders, easing restrictions to ensure the full blooming of cyberspace and the unimpeded flow of skills, capital and goods into the global market.

Not a single strand of hair, too, is out of place. She looks like one always ready to step into a Vogue shoot.

"Within me is a Tañada's sense of country and I carry it everywhere. My grandfather would have been truly proud of my work," says Yam.

The intellect is definitely Tañada.

And so is the passion to challenge the status quo.

Jovie Tañada-Yam got her business management degree (cum laude) from the Ateneo de Manila University in 1987 and a law degree (8th place in a class of 121) in 1992. She was one of the 20 students from across the globe to receive the Baker and McKenzie Clerkship Award in 1991, the first Filipino student to receive that prestigious law clerkship.

Plunging into cyber law

She passed the Philippine Bar in 1993, then hurdled the New York state bar the following year. This is the tough bar exam that the late John Kennedy Jr., flunked twice.

After graduation, Jovie joined the Philippine law firm associated with Baker and McKenzie and instead of doing the usual legal stuff that would have bored her to death, she plunged into the legal path not taken—information technology and telecommunications law.

"It was the early 90s and there was no e-law to speak of and cyber regulations were unheard of. But e-commerce was exploding and the pioneers like myself had to build cyber law from zero. Initially we had to rely on a patchwork of traditional laws which we had to stretch to cover this challenging legal field," says Yam.



JOVIE Tañada-Yam
is the granddaughter of the
revered Lorenzo Tañada

Even government, she admits, was at a loss on how to deal with IT-related legal issues.

Her husband, a "techie", helped her navigate the technical part of the new field, and guided her through the intricate yet amazing world of dot com.

That she has "the mind of a lawyer and the heart of an entrepreneur" was an advantage. Plus the fearless mind set, the wont to break new ground, the willingness to explore new frontiers.

First IT curriculum

In 1998, Ateneo asked her to develop the first information technology law curriculum and teach e-commerce courses as well. It was an understated but major compliment

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Is the Philippines dying?

"THE REPUBLIC OF THE Philippines is dying. A grand but failed experiment, its American political façade masks a historic Hispanic reality where wealth and political power in a former colony remains concentrated in the hands of a few families... Today, even if they wanted to, they cannot prevent a complete political 'melt-down,' one provoked in large part by their own failures and successes. The Philippines, like the equally fictive former Soviet Union, will soon disintegrate." (Joseph E. Fallon, author of Deconstructing America: Immigration, Nationality and Statehood.)

That is an excerpt from the opening paragraph of Fallon's foreword in the book of David C. Martinez, "A Country of Our Own, Partitioning the Philippines" (California: Bisayas Book, 2004).

Physician's assessment

Martinez, whom Fallon likens to Alexandr Solshenitsyn and who compares himself to a physician "assessing a patient's maladies," concludes that the patient, the Philippines, is afflicted with cancer—centralism. Our "incurably corrupt, centralized" political structure, he writes, "has condemned us all to modern slavery."

He also presents the other malignant illnesses of the patient from clandestine abortion to the manner by which wealth is made in the country.

The cure?

The Philippines, according to Martinez, is not a nation but a fabricated state, artificially united, centrally controlled and ruled by a few hundred powerful families who own or control about half of the country's wealth.

His recommended cure: partition the Philippines into five regions: Luzon, Cordillera, the Visayas, Mindanao, and Bangsamoro.

By doing so, he submits, we could return to our "original sense of culture and community" and become "nations again both in character and in form, nations free to retrieve our plural pasts, recapture our communal identities, and redeem our original values."

Some readers of the book, especially those quoted or referred to in ways that hurt them, will not agree with Martinez's analysis and recommendation. But perhaps, most readers will agree

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Corazon
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with former Education Secretary Bro. Andrew Gonzales that the book is "immensely stimulating."

Are we really "comatose?"

Martinez's book stimulates both negative and positive thoughts, feelings and actions. But are we, as Filipinos, really comatose, as he puts it? Have we really run out of options but to partition our country?

Shall we survive?

Jose Ma. Montelibano, PDI columnist and Gawad Kalinga volunteer, believes "that the Philippines will survive, but if only we heed and learn from the provocative truths so well laid out in this (Martinez's) challenging book."

Yes, this country will survive. But will it survive as one nation—"people bound by a distinct ancestry, culture, history, and language"? Or will it survive as one state composed of "a group of nations organized under a single government?"

I do not have the answer to these questions now. But whether we shall try harder to become one nation, or change to become a group of independent nations, we will all still face the challenge of building a nation, either small or big.

Basic issues

Based on the ethnographic map of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the Cordillera and Region 1 alone have 15 ethnolinguistic groups. Each of those groups has its own set of the distinct ancestry and other essential elements for nationhood mentioned above. But despite their habitat's wealth—minerals, water sources, and biodiversity—they remain the poorest of our poor.

For many IPs, the immediate issues are on survival: Is there enough food for tomorrow? Is the water from a nearby spring safe enough to drink?

So while we are struggling with the issue of nationhood, which has long-term implications, the IPs and the rest of our poor people, must address those basic survival issues. They need help to do so as their resources are limited. But if we are to help them, we must ap-

IS THE PHILIPPINES/B2-3

VILLALON
on 'Asian Venice' /C8

LIFESTYLE

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INTERACTIVE art session

The First Iloilo Arts Festival serves notice that a sleeping cultural giant has woken up



MUSEO Iloilo is run by volunteers.

Iloilo rocks

By Lito B. Zulueta

I LOILO HAS ALWAYS competed with other key Visayan capitals, such as Cebu, Bacolod and even Dumaguete, as center of commerce, education and tourism. Now, with the just-ended First Iloilo Arts Festival, it has served notice that it would also establish itself a center of arts and culture as well. What we are seeing is a cultural giant waking up.

And the waking-up seems the message of the First Iloilo Arts Festival. Organized recently by the Iloilo City Convention Bureau and its

president, Ma. Teresa S. Sarabia, the festival signaled a shift in the tourism promotion of the province. From here on, for Iloilo to put its best foot forward means exposing its cultural soul to tourists, the better for them to appreciate what animates the best and the brightest of the Ilonggo.

But as a culture center, Iloilo hasn't exactly been lethargic all these years. Without fanfare, it has achieved relative success in raising heritage awareness.

Through private sector initiative for instance, the Museo Iloilo was established by the Iloilo Cultural and Research Foundation (ICRF), making its home in a modest modern building standing on the provincial government grounds.

Work for the museum is purely voluntary, ILOILO/C4

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Two shows, two mirrors of the Filipino

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

THERE ARE VARIOUS ways of looking at the psyche of the Filipino.

Two ongoing solo exhibitions offer a fairly good sampling of what artists look for in the quintessential Filipino, their works serving as virtual mirrors of our true selves.

Romeo Gutierrez, a veteran painter who trained at University of Santo Tomas and an art professor at the College of the Holy Spirit, has long been associated with non-objective geometrical figures through various periods in his career.

Though he has been out of the limelight for an extended period, the artist has not stopped working on new pieces, many still bearing the imprint of his signature compositions.

This suite of 27 works, his 26th show since 1969, consists of both acrylic and oil paintings of landscape and still life, indeed a welcome departure from his traditionally muted monochromatic series.

"Colors of Life," shown at the Art Circle of Shangri-La Mall, evokes the local landscape dominated by tropical hues of primordial green and blue signifying the land and sea. The works reverberate with the delicacy of Manansala and the flamboyance of HR Ocampo, two important influ-



"BALIGJA ni Willy," by Sam Penaso

ences in Gutierrez's art.

The multilayered shapes emerging in "Abundance" serve as homage to the former, a maestro from the lakeshore province of Laguna, whose style and content explored the fullness of his homegrown cubist sensibility. The other pieces by Gutierrez are ostensibly executed in the neorealist vein, with fragmented imagery dominated by various curvilinear motifs.

The few markedly abstract pieces in the show betray less affinity with the figure, perhaps

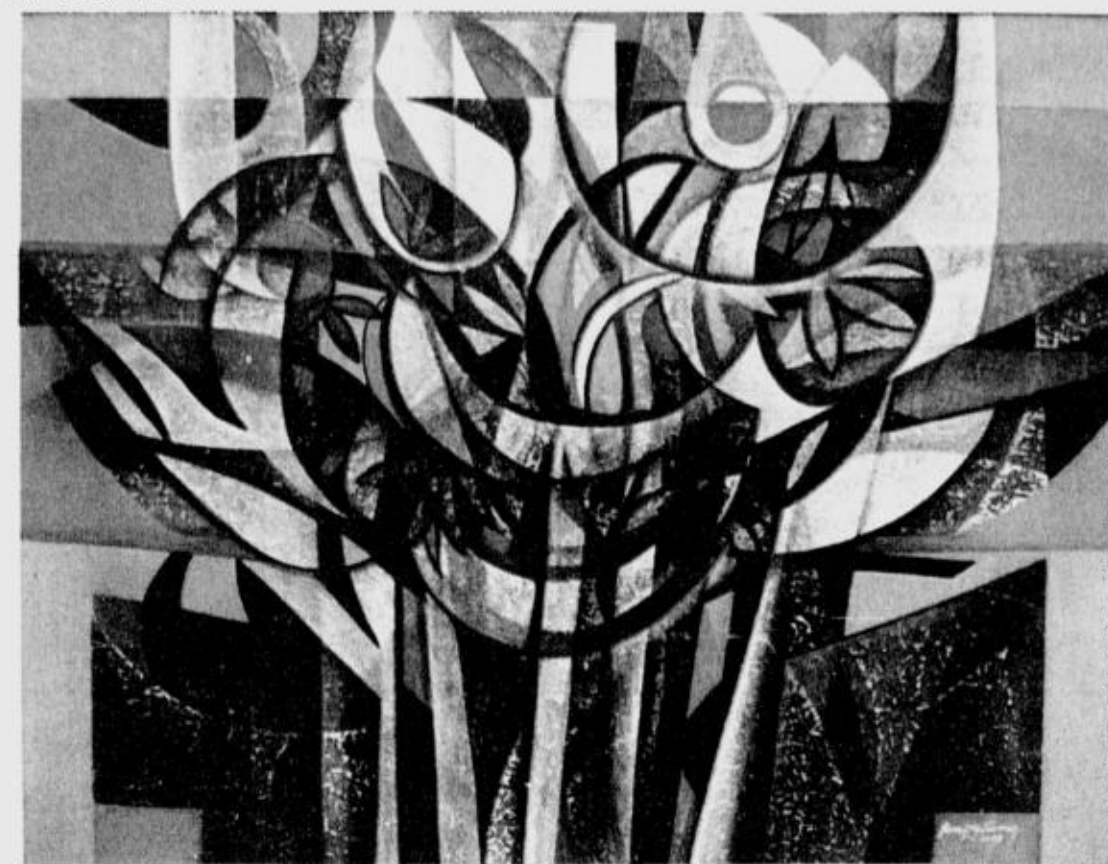
Philippine abstract art's finest geometrician is Romeo Gutierrez

the result of the artist's preoccupation with textural effects in acrylic, as well as the surface sheen applied in the painting's finishing stages.

In "Cool Shade of the Day," for example, the artist seems less enamored with color gradation than with evoking shifting moods. The work speaks of the weather, which on this side of the equator seems to fluctuate erratically.

Of the countless artists who emerged in the '70s and evolved in the ensuing decades, Gutierrez virtually clung to his obsession with geometric forms, and his equally fastidious approach to the painting process. This, in hindsight, is the Pinoy sensibility at work in art.

Three decades later, and well into another century, the Pinoy artist seems stuck in a wonderland of imagery. While the winds of change have buffeted the planet, the Pinoy is safely ensconced in his own small corner in the



"ABUNDANCE," by Romeo Gutierrez

global village.

Irreverent

A relative newcomer in the art scene, Sam Penaso has delved into the most irreverent themes in his artistic pursuit. In a live performance, he explored the aesthetics of death and dying by enclosing himself in a coffin for hours. His shows looked at the politics of overseas labor (particularly Japan, where many Filipino women end up) and, in this current exhibit of watercolors, the residual effects of globalization.

The show is one of three simultaneously held at the Boston Gallery (72 Boston St., Cubao, Quezon City, until Nov. 16), and the most telling for the idea it

purveys: the sari-sari store as emblem of the Pinoy's innate entrepreneurial spirit.

The works bear the image of still life, as these makeshift *tien-das* are examined from the outside, offering a peek into the variety of goods being peddled, ranging from junk food to canned goods and other domestic items.

What makes the works enticing is the side show of light and shadow, particularly that coming from the iron bars and steel railings securing the interiors.

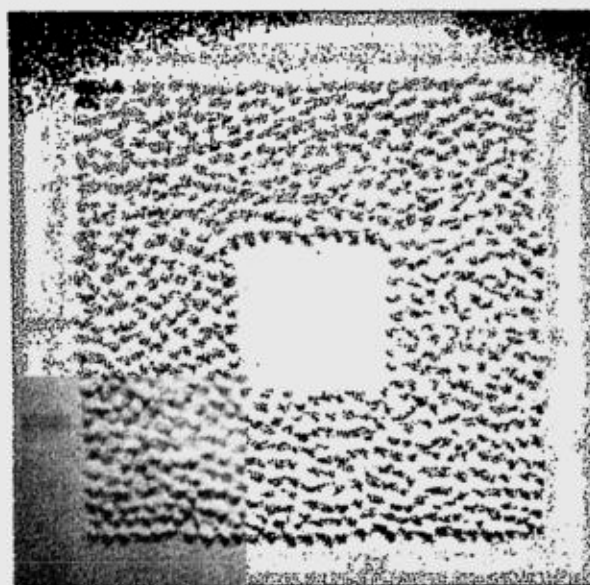
A native of Guindulman, Bohol, a province long known for the local folk's trading activities, Penaso examines the specter of globalization, with the Pinoy making the effort to make both

ends meet by engaging in various forms of buy-and-sell activities, with the sari-sari store offering easy relief from the high cost of living and promising daily income for the family.

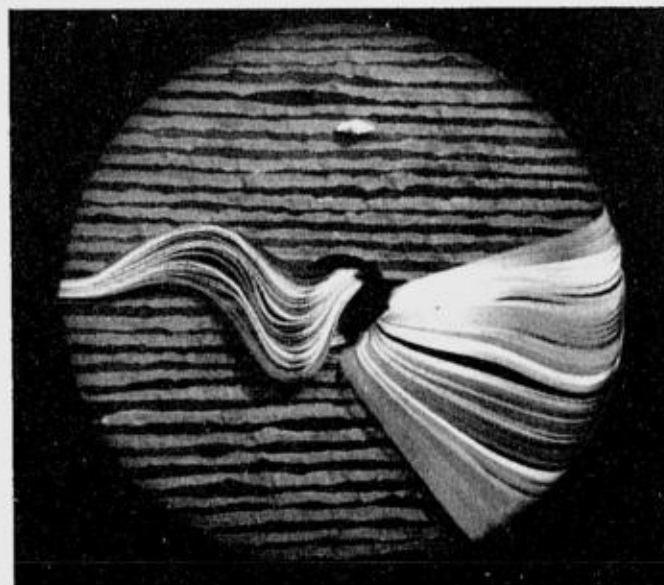
Judging, too, by the sources of the merchandise in these retail outlets, one is assaulted by the consumerist wave afflicting the nation.

I wish Penaso also showed the macro extreme of selling, as represented by shopping malls that have now taken over the country's landscape and where our hard-earned money goes. But that is another sad story on where progress has led us.

E-mail author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com.



"PAPEL ng Papel" features the paper art of Impy Pilapil, Tes Pasola and Tony Gonzales. Their works tear up the usual conceptions that confine paper within two-dimensionality and small scale. The exhibit runs until January 2006 at Metropolitan Museum of Manila. Above are "ISM I—Pulp and Paper Relief" by Gonzales (left) and "Cosmic Rhythm IV" by Pilapil.



Padua at Astra, Aguinaldo at Duemila, paper art at Metropolitan Museum

GALERIE ASTRA FEATURES DEMI Padua Jr.'s "Overview" on Nov. 3-16 at Art Pavillon, 2/F, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Makati. The abstractionist offers an alternative way of looking at negative things: Instead of focusing on exhausting details of the problem, he encourages the audience to zoom out and see the bigger picture. Call 7243032.

LEONARDO Aguinaldo explores the temper of the times in his metaphorical paintings. His show "Ay Apo Christ Is Good" runs Nov. 7-Dec. 2 at Galleria Duemila, 4/L, Megamall A. Call 6343261/ 6336687.

THE WORKS of National Artists Cesar Legaspi, José Joya, H.R. Ocampo and Arturo Luz will be featured in "Blessing upon Blessing." Seventy paintings, together with those by Oscar Zalameda, Tam Austria, Gus Albor, Lito Antonio, Norma Belleza and Manuel Baldemor, will be on sale on Nov. 4-6 at Celebrity Sports Club in Dillman, QC. Call 2490585/ 6393634.

AYALA Museum presents Theresa



"BLOOMING Bromeliad," by Theresa Miller

Miller's "Floral Celebration" Nov. 4-16 at the 2/F, Museum Space, Ayala Museum, Makati. Miller shows a collection of 25 watercolor floral paintings. Call 7577117 to 21.

FERDIE Montemayor holds his 18th solo exhibit "bara-barangay" until Nov. 6, at The Big & Small Art Co., 4/L, Building A, SM Megamall. Montemayor presents his latest works in ink and acrylic on 12 canvases. Call 6877425.

SIX CHILDREN will present "Every Child Is an Artist" on Nov. 5-17 at Triumph Bldg., Quezon Avenue, QC. The kids are Jonyl Jacosalem Gabana, Jethro Aaron Jamon, Ian Garrett Lim, Myra Ruth Picart, Lawrence Edward Racho and Cara Karina Tang. Their works are acrylic paintings with land- and seascapes and still life as subjects.

ALLIANCE Francalse de Manila features Mariano Akerman's "Les constellations Interieures" on Nov. 7-25. The artist shows a series of paintings and drawings he did in Buenos Aires, Jerusalem, London, Brussels and Manila. Call 8957441/ 8957585.

FINALE Art Gallery presents Alvin Villaruel's "Bulb" until Nov. 8 on the 4/L of Megamall A. The artist exhibits large-scale photo-based oil paintings.

THE DRAWING Room mounts Maya Muñoz's "Tropical Samadhi" until Nov. 8 on the G/F, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati. Composed of mostly figurative pieces, Muñoz does self-portraits in fragments. Call 8976990/ 8977877.

MARCELO Baldomar will hold his first solo show of still life, landscape paintings in oil, acrylic and watercolor on Nov. 8-18 at the Cinema, 4/F, Citywalk 2, Eastwood City, Libis, QC.

ART SPACE showcases Benji Reyes' "Kolektor Series 2005" until Nov. 9 at

Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. The artist presents furniture in wood. Call 7289724.

ART SPACE presents "Calibrated Painting Response (CPR)" on Nov. 9-20 at 318-A LRI Business Plaza, Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air, Makati. The exhibit features the works of Guillermo Naval, Jemina Reyes, Arnel Ramiscal and Mervy Pueblo. Call 8959837.

MAG:NET Gallery ABS features "New Paintings and Other Stuff" until Nov. 12 at the Loop ELJ Comm. Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Eugenio Lopez Jr. Street, QC. The show presents the works of Poklong Anadig, Roberto Chabet, Pardo de Leon, Jet Melencio and MM Yu. Call 4100995.

THE EMBASSY of Finland presents the travelling exhibition "Alvar Aalto: Timeless Expressions" until Nov. 13 at the 4/F galleries of Ayala Museum. The exhibit highlights 16 one-family houses designed by Aalto. Call 7577117 to 21.

AYALA Museum mounts "Harvest of Saints: 19th Century Paintings" until Nov. 13 at its 4/F gallery. The show features 19th century paintings from Vicky Vizcarra Amallangan's collection. Call 7577117 to 21.

SALVADOR Joel Alonday presents 12 bust sculptures of saints and holy personages done in cast epoxy resin. The exhibit, "Molde Perdido," runs until Nov. 16 at the lower gallery of Boston Gallery, 72 Boston St., Cubao, QC. Call 7229205.

CRISTINA de la Cruz mounts "Wonders of the Sea" until Nov. 18 at Food & Art Gallery, on the 12/F, GT Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati. Her collection focuses on deep sea life.

ALMA Quinto's works will be featured with those of 80 participating international and Japanese artists at the Yokohama 2005—2nd International Triennale of Contemporary Art in Yokohama, Japan, until Dec. 18.

Large works at Joaquin

GALERIE JOAQUIN MAIN IS showing the exhibit, "Large Paintings," featuring works from contemporary artists. The works are 30" x 40" in size or larger.

Artworks are by Arturo Luz, Carlo Magno, Karina Baluyut and Gino Tioseco, for abstract art; Angelito Antonio, Mario Parial, Jerry Morada, Bernard Vista, Bayani Ray Acala, Edwin Tres Reyes, Dominic Rubio, Hermes Alegre, Roniño Quinto, Jerome Francisco and Leonardo Reyes, for representational or figurative art.

This exhibit bucks the current trend whereby artists have been painting smaller and smaller pieces.

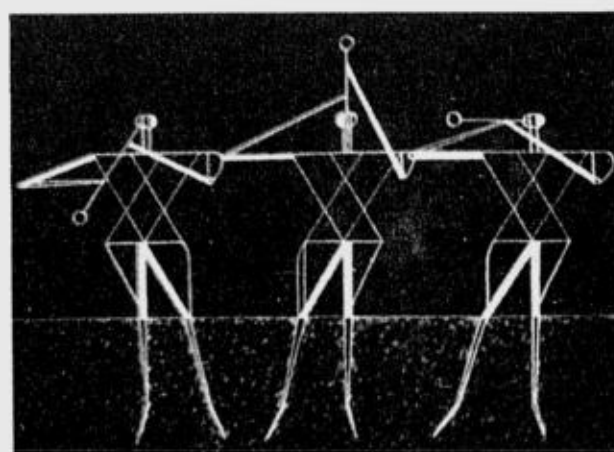
Many artists believe large canvases give them an opportunity to expound more on their subjects.

"There is more room to say what we want to say," says Morada, foremost figurative surrealist of the Guevarra Group of Artists.

Vista says he can put more figures in the composition if it is a large painting.

"One can even do thematic paintings such as an interpretation of the harvest or a fiesta scene," says Parial, who, like Juvenal Sanso and Luz, had paintings that were successfully sold at the 20th anniversary auction of the Sotheby's in Singapore early this month.

Galerie Joaquin Main is at 371 P Guevarra St. cor. Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan, Metro Manila. Call 7239253 or 7239418 or e-mail galerie_joaquin@yahoo.com.



"THE PERFORMERS," by Arturo Luz



"BAYANIHAN (Fishermen III)," by Bernard Vista



"HIDDEN Romance," by Jerry Morada

Demetrio's watercolors at C'est Si Bon

ART PATRON AND MULTI-AWARDED author-publisher Marlene Aguilar considers watercolor a very Asian medium.

"Many visual artists consider watercolor as a minor medium," she said, "but they also agree that it is the most difficult. It has been used for

centuries by the Chinese and the Japanese and long before European painter's popularized oil. It is so difficult it is likened by Chinese painters to 'taming wild horses.'" I encourage young artists to go into watercolor because it's something close to the senses. *Kumbaga sa pagkain, para kang nagkakamay.*"

Aguilar has found a watercolor master in the much-awarded painter Demetrio de la Cruz. For years, Demetrio had been using oil and acrylic because they were the preferred media of most established artists.

"As a student, I was taught to concentrate more on using oil or acrylic. Even years later, I continued using oil, as were my contemporaries and the people I looked up to," said Demetrio.

While in college, he had won major awards in the annual PLDT, Metrobank and Shell art contests. But starting a family early compelled him to work in ad agencies. He then went to business—studio photography. Painting took a backseat.

But Demetrio went on to bag a major prize in the Philip Morris Art Competition in 2002. He also found time to be involved with the Art Association of the Philippines, in which he continues to serve as the youngest board member since 2003.

A year ago, AAP president Fidel Sarmiento



"FIESTA of the Sto. Niño," by Demetrio de la Cruz

DEMETRIO'S/C3

Jack Salud's dotted wonders



SALUD is renowned exponent of pointillism.

UNIVERSAL YET MULTICULTURAL IN spirit, formally constructed yet nostalgic, reductive, sentimental, textured and decorative, yet unadorned, chromatic and tonal... There is an endless list of divergent qualities which are held together in Jack Salud's work.

Once more, the pointillist artist known for his rustic figures paints scenes of serenity and bliss, a balm for these times of turmoil.

Titled "Dotted Arias IV," the show marks Salud's 17th one-man exhibit, which opens at Gallery 139, 3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, on Nov. 4-18.

Painstakingly executed with more than million delicate dots of paint, the series features large-scale canvases of Salud's trademark, energetic yet restful shapes set amid a breezy background of cascading leaves; musicians in solitude; children at play, and others.

Salud first entered the art scene in 1996 when he was invited by Chichi Salas of Gallery Genesis to participate in the gallery's annual "Kulay sa Tubig" watercolor group exhibition, which was participated by the coun-

try's top 50 contemporary young artists.

In 1997, he opened his first solo exhibit at the Ayala Museum. Salud consequently received the prestigious commission to design two of the museum's Christmas cards that year.

In 1999, he opened his first international solo exhibit in Roppongi, Tokyo, through the invitation of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

In the words of Cid Reyes, renowned art critic, "Salud's art aches with such emotional feelings, but with a mixture of understated elegance and a surfeit of ornamentalism. But it is the Oriental sentiment that so pervades the mood of his works—a tranquilizing peace that envelops every figure in his domestic landscapes."

All the works, rendered in acrylic, reflects the artist's view that "simple and pure pleasures are what gives a person true happiness and spiritual contentment."

Call 7289724 or e-mail jksalud@pdt.dsl.net.



"SUMMER'S End," by Jack Salud

Demetrio's . . .

From page C2

brought one of Demetrio's oil works to Marlene for her book project "Encyclopedia of Philippine Art, Volume 1." She liked the work and readily included it in her book.

When she finally met Demetrio, she suggested that he try watercolor.

"I was surprised to find that this medium is what I'm most comfortable with. With watercolor, each brushstroke seems to create images on its own. There's a unique flow, as if there's magic. Images seem to arise spontaneously," said Demetrio.

His subjects range from sensuous women to flowers, fiestas and religion. It helps that he has honed his skills in photography, thus, his mastery of lighting techniques.

His "Diwata" series has been well received by art lovers.

Demetrio is holding his first solo exhibit at the Cést Si Bon. "Dreams by Demetrio" consists of 20 original paintings.

The show runs until Nov. 8.

Cést Si Bon is at Commerce Avenue and West Gate, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Call 0920-9243044.



"ATI-ATIHAN"

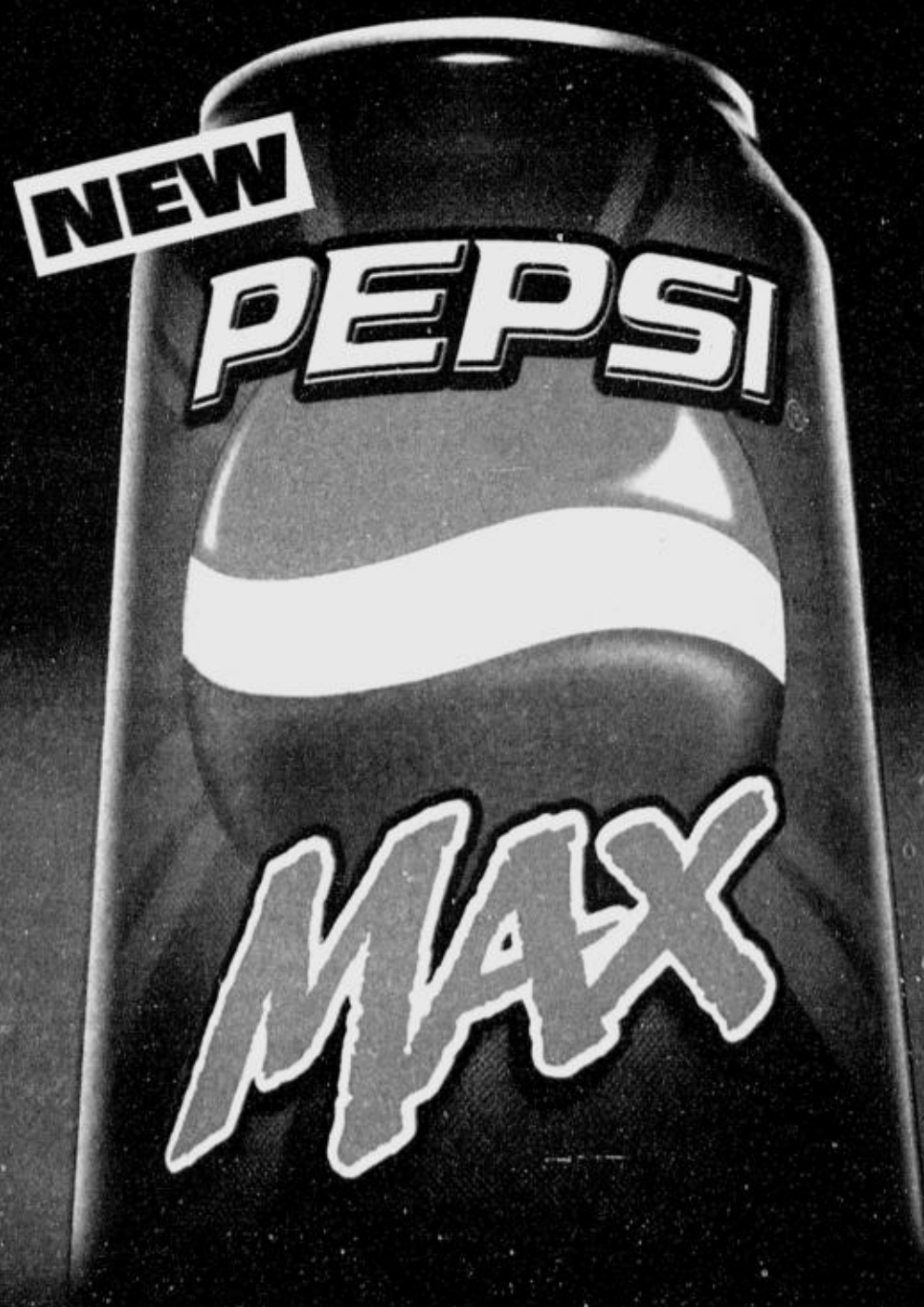


"MASKARA Festival"



"WARRIOR"

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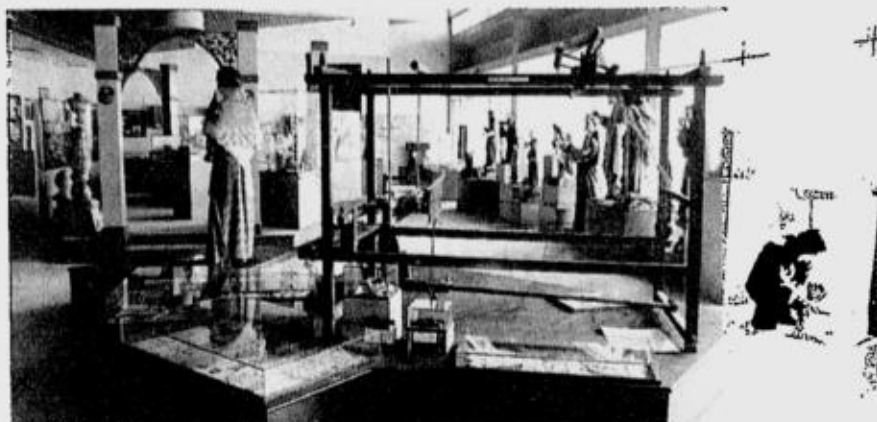
MAXIMUM TASTE. NO SUGAR.



WESLEY Valenzuela's "Biting the Hand That Feeds"



C.J. Tañedo's "The Sacred and the Profane"



MUSEO tableaux take visitors on a tour of Iloilo history.



RELIGIOUS icons from Museo Iloilo collection

Iloilo rocks

From page C1

and a visitor appreciates the cooperation and professionalism that have gone into the setting up of the museum showcases and the running of museum operations.

The showcases allow the visitor to survey Panay island's rich prehistory and recorded history through archeological artifacts and dioramas of colonial lifestyle and historical developments up to the Second World War.

The presentation is succinct and efficient. It has no airs, no pretensions. It puts the visitor right where the cultural and historic heart of Panay Island is.

Solidarity

The visitor will likewise marvel at the solidarity and sense of cooperation among community leaders. As gleaned from the Museo, there appears a strong sense of urgency among Ilonggos to conserve their cultural heritage as well as mine the legacy to look for cultural guideposts for the present.

It is surprising, for example, to find that the ICRF has its own quarterly publication, Museo Iloilo, which publishes news updates

as well as learned papers on Panay culture.

All of this should make Iloilo perfectly qualified to organize an arts and culture festival. And it is a credit to the good sense of the organizers that the festival focused on Iloilo's strong suits while not exactly coming less than adventurous.

The media-familiarization tour of the festival, for example, focused first on Iloilo's strong suit as a business convention site as well as a rest and recreation enclave.

The city is near the airport (the media were brought to the city by Air Philippines) and is home to a number of well-furnished hotels such as the Sarabia Manor Hotel.

Since Iloilo is a commercial center, it hosts leading business establishments as well as shopping malls.

Educational center

As an educational center, Iloilo hosts several colleges and universities as well as established medical centers such as the Iloilo Doctors Hospital, St. Paul Hospital, West Visayas University Hospital, and University of San Agustin Hospital.

The rest-and-recreation regime mainly



EMERGENT artist Buen Calubayan and his drawings



ABSTRACTIONIST Lindslee

consists of first-rate food places and bars such as Breakthrough Restaurant, which serves seafood, and Flow Resto Lounge, a top watering hole.

Iloilo's built heritage, particularly from the Spanish colonial era, is the most evident cultural resource of the island. An arts festival, or a tourism campaign for that matter, could not just ignore the churches of Iloilo, particularly the magnificent Miag-ao church, which is inscribed in the Unesco World Heritage List.

The arts component of the festival consists of an interactive art session and art exhibit at SM Iloilo, an arts workshop for beginners and advance fine arts students by the Young Thomasian Artists Circle (YTAC) at the Museo Iloilo, and a festival of dances at Robinsons Place opened by Tourism Usec. Salvador Sarabia Jr.

The latter featured top local dance groups such as the Pag-asa Dinagyang Tribe, Hugyaw Arts Company of the St. Therese-MTC Colleges, Irong-irong Dance Company of the West Visayas State University, Binanog Tribe of Lambunao, and Kawilihan Dance Troupe of the University of San Agustin.

The Ilonggos' pride of heritage, albeit colonial, is in full display

Friendship and heritage in a jew

By Constantino C. Tejero

ILOILO—THE ORIGINAL QUEEN CITY OF the South before its center was razed by fire in the 1960s and Cebu seized the title—was rightly chosen as this year's venue for the celebration of the Philippine-Spanish Friendship Week.

Made a city under a royal decree issued by the Regent Queen Cristina of Spain on Oct. 25, 1889, Iloilo is one of the oldest cities in the Pacific. It was one of the original five royal cities of the colony, its cultural capital and second most important city.

Thus, in 1898, after the fall of Manila, it was where the seat of government was transferred, making it the last capital of the Spanish empire in Asia.

On June 29-30, the city hosted the celebration in cooperation with the Embassy of Spain, the Spanish Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Instituto Cervantes.

The event's organizing committee, created by the city government and chaired by Elena Jison Golez, invited representatives of national newspapers from Manila to a cultural tour sponsored by the Iloilo City Convention Bureau, the Department of Tourism Regional Office, and Cebu Pacific Airways.

(The tour was conducted with clean dispatch, cool efficiency and infinite patience by the informative and ever-amiable Bernadine Palacios, DOT Region VI senior operations officer, together with Reuel Yanson, adventure guide and tour operator of Panay Adventures—both soft-spoken, as Ilonggos generally are.)

Cultural collapse

This was only the second time the event was held outside Manila. Two years ago, the festivities were held in Baler, Quezon, Spain's last military stronghold in the country.

It was there where the last 33 Spanish soldiers, under siege for 11 months, surrendered to the Filipino revolutionary force, prompting Emilio Aguinaldo, president of the First Philippine Republic, to issue on June 30, 1899, a decree declaring them friends instead of prisoners of war.

The annual commemoration is meant to revive and fortify the waning friendship between Spain and the Philippines—a decline reflected in the sorry state of Iloilo's colonial structures.

Calle Real, where our national hero José Rizal went on a promenade during a stopover on his aborted way to Cuba, now looks more like Divisoria than a proud showcase of a jewel city. (That's what usually happens when the malls take over, as with Session Road in Baguio.)

Calle Real, once pleasant to the eyes, now appears abandoned and left to its own devices. What we have here is rubble, squalid quarters, congestion, an air of seediness and strange affairs.

So when a heritage structure is being demolished, no one seems to be watching or is interested. We can even imagine a few muttering, "Good riddance!"

The Beaux Art architecture of Panay Electric Co., so picturesque, is no more.

The unusual Art Deco government building in Jaro has been turned into a seedy police station. The stately slate-gray prewar building of Asilo de Molo has been splintered by the nuns

OPENING cultural activity at Museo Iloilo, the first government-sponsored museum outside Metro Manila



into squat brown bungalows.

Foes of culture

And not just in the city. The manifestations of decay is everywhere one goes in the province.

During a brief trip to southern Iloilo, the visitors were visibly awed by the colonial architecture, or remnants of it, particularly of the churches ranging in styles from the Baroque to the Gothic to the Romanesque. But then, these national-treasure structures are now in various stages of decrepitude, notwithstanding their so-called restoration.

The Church of Sto. Tomas de Villanueva in Miag-ao, 40 km from the city proper, is being eaten by mold and erosion. The façade is moldering, its architectural details such as the Spanish coat of arms are falling apart, while the statues of the saints in niches have been painted tawny to approximate the natural color tone of the structure's stone slabs.

This was once considered the most beautiful church in the Philippines, one of only four Baroque churches in the country, and has been declared a World Heritage Site by the Unesco. But we don't think it's properly preserved and protected at all, not to say restored.

As part of the activities, a series of interesting and packed lectures on the Spanish influence on Philippine architecture was conducted by Instituto Cervantes. Someone commented the greatest enemies of church restoration were the parish priests. (No comment.)

Full-packed affair

The two-day celebration was a full-packed affair.

University of San Agustin and Museo Iloilo (the first government-sponsored museum outside Metro Manila) presented "Palimpsesto," a



PAINTING of Miag-ao Church by Rodolfo Y. Ragodon



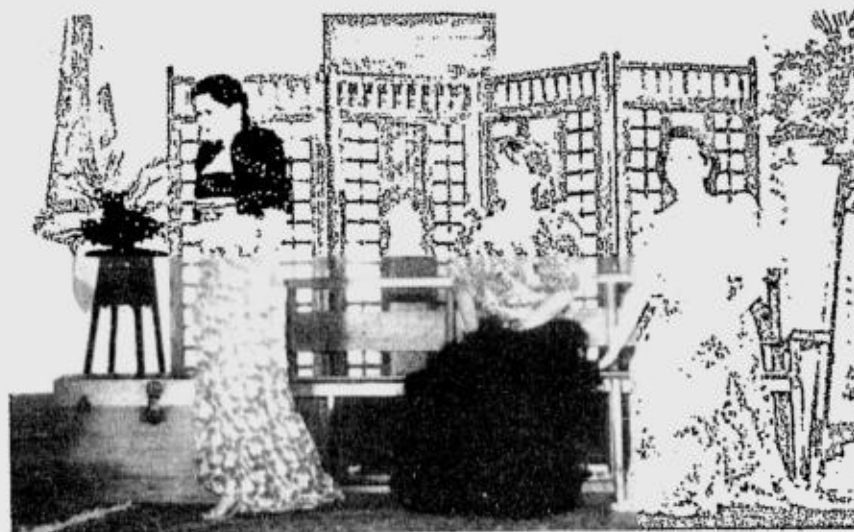
PERFORMANCE at Museo Iloilo



OPENING of exhibit of Ilonggo artists at Museo Iloilo



ILOILO City Mayor Jerry Treñas hands over the key of the city to Spanish secretary general Rafael Dezcallar before President Arroyo. PHOTOS BY ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU



TERTULIA at Sarabia Manor with Ilonggo personalities in Patis Tesoro fineries



UNIVERSITY of San Agustin Fine Arts students view exhibit on influence of Spanish architecture on colonial structures.

Highlight

The highlight of the festival was obviously the exhibit by the YTAC at the Museo Iloilo. Opened by Rosalie Trenas, wife of Iloilo Mayor Jerry Trenas, the exhibit, "dog/god," is familiar to Metro Manilans since it had previously been exhibited at the University of Santo Tomas Museum of Arts and Sciences and Cultural Center of the Philippines.

YTAC is an informal organization of young artists-alumni from the UST College of Fine Arts and Design (and its earlier version, College of Architecture and Fine Arts).

The participating YTAC artists in the Iloilo exhibit were Lindslee, Lawrence Borsoto, Ivan Roxas, Mark Magistrado, Buen Calubayan, Jaime Pacena II, Wesley Valenzuela, Andres Barrioquinto, and CJ Tanedo. Curator was Jocelyn Tullao of the UST Museum.

By hosting the touring exhibit, Iloilo got a first crack at the unique show, which is an instructive showcase of the plurality of mediums and expressions in contemporary art as well as the generous pool of young talents that has emerged lately to explore new materials and genres.

The exhibit, which will be brought to Singapore and South Korea, might have been too *arriere-garde* for Iloilo taste (it explores the binary between the sacred and the profane, a calculatedly ticklish theme for artists who came from the Pontifical University), but the consensus from the art scene in Iloilo was that the exhibit was bold, daring, and inspired.

Not that the Iloilo arts scene is not familiar with art trends. The Independent Artists Studio of Iloilo, for example, is an informal group of Iloilo artists experimenting with new styles and expressions. Its members—Faith Anastacio, Nil Capinanes, Joseph Firmeza, Carlo Juntado, Liby Norman Limoso, Norman Posecion, and J. Scott Saria—have exhibited at the Museo Iloilo, Space Between and Days Hotel Iloilo Art Gallery.

The fact that there are artist groups in Iloilo and a growing number of galleries should bode well for a more thriving arts scene on the island in the future.

But Iloilo cultural leaders aren't relaxing. Next year, according to Teresa Sarabia, the Iloilo Arts Festival will be bigger and brighter. We have no doubt it will be.



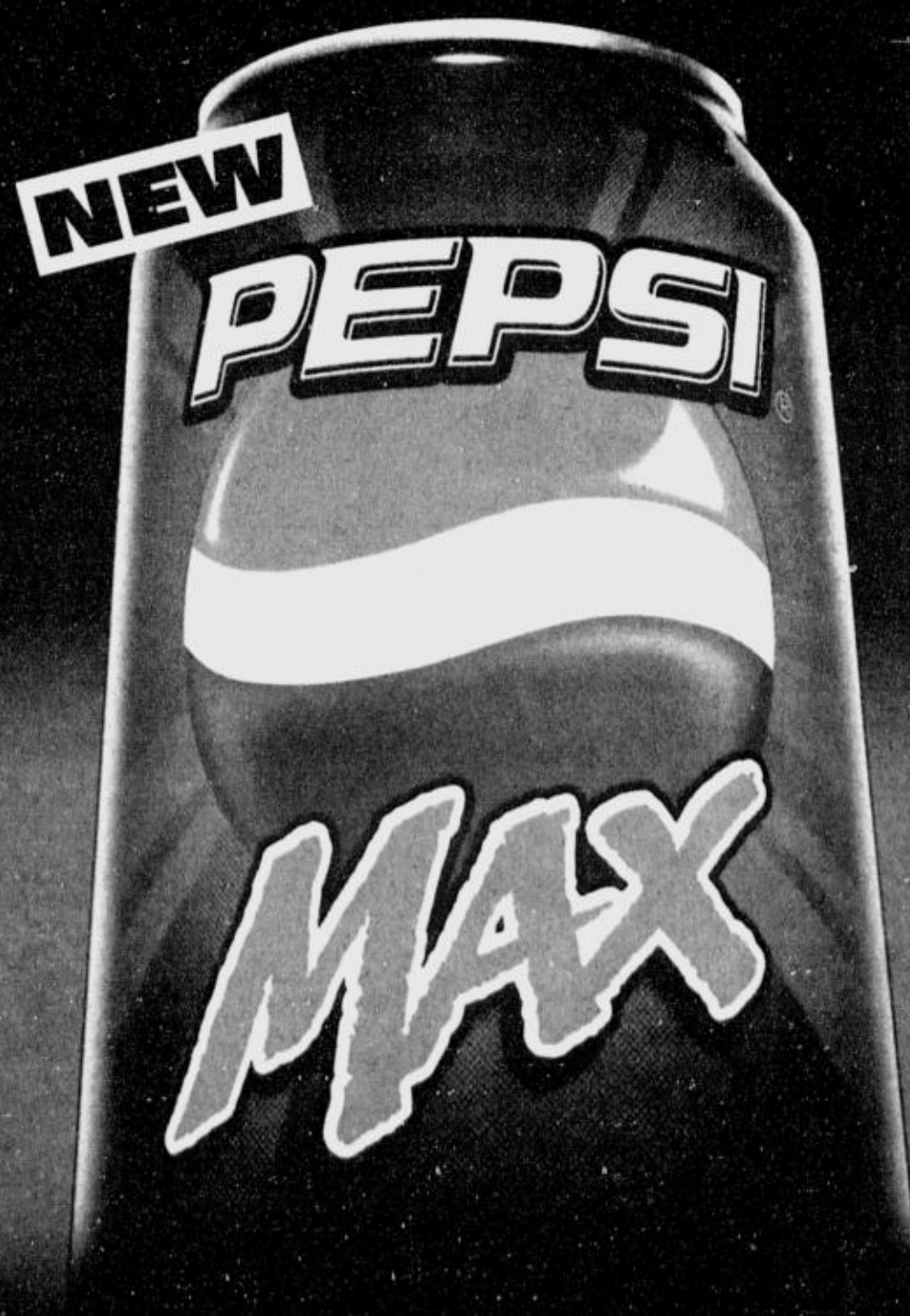
MUSEO showcase displays prehistoric burial practices.



MEMBERS of the Young Thomasian Artists Circle with Iloilo cultural leader Teresa Sarabia (in pink) and UST Museum assistant curator Jocelyn Tullao

SWEET NA GIRLFRIEND MO.

DI MO NA KAILANGAN NG ASUKAL.



MAXIMUM TASTE. NO SUGAR.

vel city

theater form of presenting Hilgaynon literature, as well as an art exhibit by Ilonggo artists.

San Agustin also held the lectures on colonial architecture and a festival of award-winning Spanish films. Over at Iloilo National High School, a workshop was conducted by Centro Flamenco.

Del Rio Hotel held Feria Española, a trade fair of Spanish wines and consumer products; a wine-appreciation seminar; a demo on Spanish cooking by chef Sandra Cacho of Gaudi restaurant; and a flamenco performance by Guillermo Gomez.

In the evening at Sarabia Manor Hotel, the Ilonggo elite in full fineries attended Tertulia y Tapas, a dinner with entertainment featuring a fashion show by Patis Tesoro and Jackie Peñalosa, poetry reading, classical guitar and Spanish songs by the University of San Agustin Troubadours.

Praise and protest

For the formal opening of the event on June 30, Secretary General Rafael Dezcallar flew in from Madrid. He arrived with Spanish Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz and Instituto Cervantes director Javier Galvan to attend the ceremonies at the provincial capitol.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo came surrounded by the Ilonggos in national government: Senate President Franklin Drilon, Justice Sec. Raul Gonzalez, then Land Reform Sec. Rene Villa.

In the provincial jail just a spitting distance from the capitol grounds, an inmate peering through a hole in his prison cell was yelling through the brass band's music and politicians' speeches, protesting something or other.

Along Bonifacio Drive a stone's throw away, farmers were slowly marching, bearing antigovernment placards.

And this, while Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas was praising the President to high heavens, and Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Trenas was turning over the key of the city to Secretary General Dezcallar.

On a light note, the President commented that the two nations' friendship was further bridged by the Spanish ambassador's marriage to an Ilongga.

Lasting legacy

The Ilonggos of Iloilo (as distinguished from those of Negros) are among the most low-keyed and laid-back people in the country, yet Iloilo was the first city in the Philippines to have a Millionaires' Row. Think Lizares Mansion. Think Nelly's Garden. Think Casa Mariquit.

If all these colonial structures disappear tomorrow, the Hispanic legacy would still persist in the culture. It would still appear in the people's character and customs, their arts and crafts, literature, cuisine.

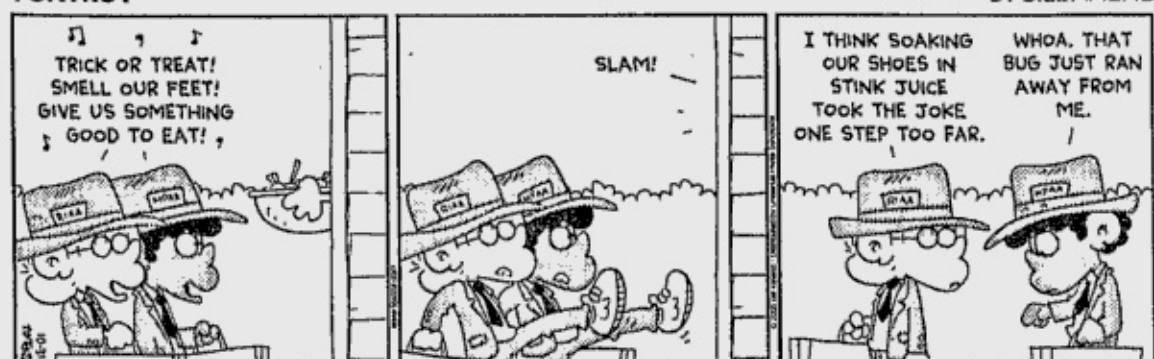
The Ilonggos' pride of heritage, albeit colonial, clearly manifested during a steak lunch with Zafiro Ledesma II, a trustee of Iloilo Cultural and Research Foundation, which manages Museo Iloilo.

Asked if the tureen on the Art Nouveau table in his heritage house was made of pewter, he quickly replied: "We don't use pewter, excuse me. Only sterling silver."

The mansion may now look ramshackle side by side with the rococo-baroque villas of the nouveau riche, but you can be sure it is authentic, never faux.

FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA



MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



PUGAD BABOY

BY RM. JUNIOR



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are kind and compassionate. Because this is the easiest way to be happy, many of you have fulfilling, joyful lives. You're a caregiver and a nurturing individual. Many of you work in medical-related fields. You often contemplate your own mortality. You have a deep, inner wisdom. An important choice awaits you this year. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: Adam Horowitz, musician; Barbara Bel Geddes, actress; Peter Jackson, director.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day for Halloween. By the end of the day, the Moon moves into Scorpio, the sign that rules skeletons, goblins and all things spooky and hidden. Boo!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might be able to introduce reform and improvements at work today. You certainly see a better way of doing things. Hopefully, others will listen to you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're making big changes at home, perhaps for Halloween or perhaps to just improve your digs. Discussions with a parent might be significant.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're willing to use your creative energy to help children today. Similarly, this creative energy can go toward making a party lots of fun for everyone. You shine!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're a strong, natural leader. When you decide to convince others of something, you're influential and impacting. This is a flirtatious, fun-loving day!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a good day for social activities at home and within the family. Some of you are excited and enjoying Halloween. It's also a great day for parties and the enjoyment of art.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Business transactions go well today (preferably in the morning and early afternoon). Your communication skills are tops today. Dealings with siblings and neighbors are pleasant.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a good day to make money. It's also a good day to spend it, especially in the morning and early afternoon. You'll enjoy purchases for yourself and loved ones—especially pretty things.

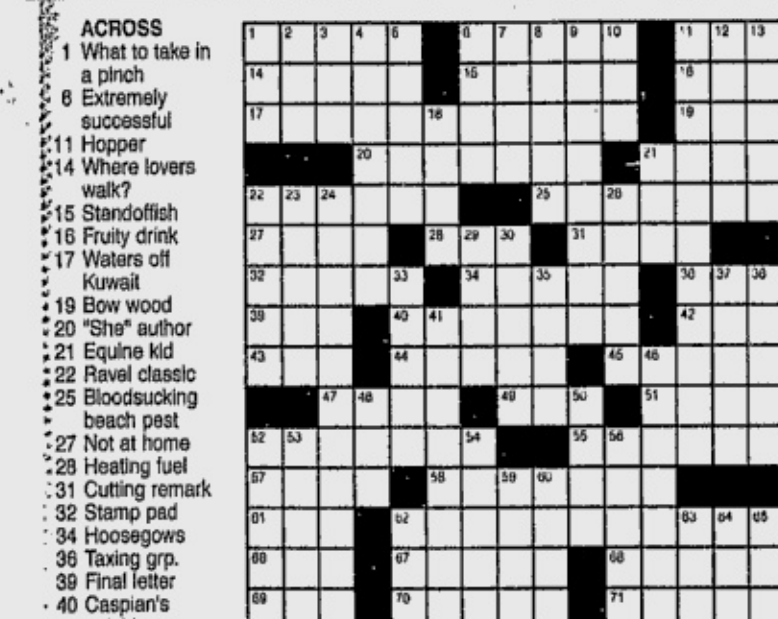
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your sign loves Halloween. Thanksgiving and all kinds of holidays and special occasions. (You love any excuse to celebrate!) Fortunately, this is a great day for Halloween. "Trick or treat!"

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You'll enjoy any time you get to spend by yourself. You need a quiet breather. Steal some solitude in pleasant surroundings if you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might hear from someone far away today. The news is uplifting. Something to do with publishing, the media and higher education encourages you now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Bosses, VIPs and parents are generous to you today. Gifts and goodies come your way. Others will help you now. Don't be afraid to ask for what you need.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By John Underwood
New York, NY

- ACROSS**
- What to take in a pinch
 - Extremely successful
 - Hopper
 - Where lovers wait?
 - Standoffish
 - Fruity drink
 - Waters off Kuwait
 - Bow wood
 - "She" author
 - Equine kid
 - Ravel classic
 - Bloodsucking beach pest
 - Not at home
 - Heating fuel
 - Cutting remark
 - Stamp pad
 - Hooesgows
 - Taxing grp.
 - Final letter
 - Caspian's neighbor
 - That liner
 - Tokyo, once
 - Pale and smooth
 - Making sense
 - Kremlin refusal
 - Kington Trio hit
 - "Peter Pan" dog
 - Meantime
 - Look to
 - O'Casey or Connery
 - Hubba-hubba
 - LAX posting
 - Waters east of Africa
 - Fauna starter?
 - Coral creations
 - Martini-like volcano
 - Bus. bigwig
 - Own up to
 - Decree
- DOWN**
- Saturate
 - Vane dir.
 - Egt.-Syr., once
 - Type of lens
 - Robin Hood's Tuck
 - Detonation
 - Gymnast
 - Korbul
 - On all
 - Like maps and ironing boards
 - and running
 - Waters north of Spain
 - Perfect
 - Just recently
 - Really excited
 - Dime monogram
 - Gaming table cover
 - Possessed
 - Waters bordering New York
 - Twangy
 - Trojan War hero
 - Oregon capital
 - Less refined
 - Money
 - Everything!
 - Charger with a horn
 - City on the Meuse
 - Distributed fixed portions
 - Opened, as sneakers
 - Hankering
 - Islands off Galway
 - Southern Hayes
 - Gall
 - PC accessory
 - Wed on the run
 - LP player
 - Most recent
 - Nest-egg \$
 - Actor Wallace
 - NAC
 - predecessor
 - Court divider

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



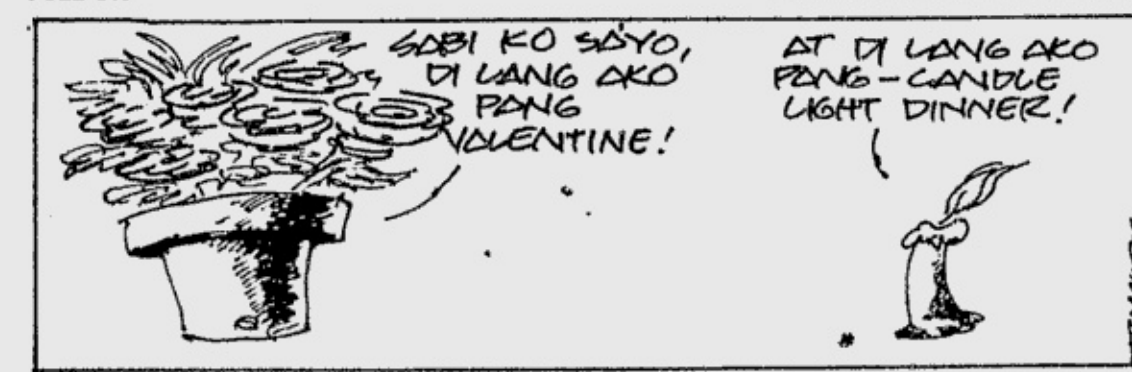
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Pitoy's Bb. Pilipinas doll fetches high price at Czech auction

FILIPINO DESIGNER PITOI MORENO'S Binibining Pilipinas doll that represented the Philippines' support for the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) programs was sold at 31,000 Czech crowns, one of the top three highest prices fetched for a doll at auction in a fundraising campaign in the Czech Republic.

The Philippine embassy in Prague reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) that Moreno's Binibining Pilipinas doll, which he himself named, was designed and donated by the fashion designer to support the fundraising campaign of the Czech Republic for Unicef's "Adopt a Doll and Save a Child" on Oct. 12 at the Pantheon of the National Museum in Prague.

The fundraising campaign aims to gather support for Unicef's humanitarian project and introduce the Philippine fashion industry to

the Czech scene.

Philippine ambassador to the Czech Republic Carmelita Salas said the embassy made representations with Moreno.

"Pitoy, with great generosity of spirit and impeccable fashion sense, designed and donated a doll magnificently attired in a Maria Clara gown of heavily embroidered *piña*," Salas said.

She added that Moreno's doll was among the top three auctioned dolls along with two other dolls from Prague's well-known fashion houses, the Italian house of Prada and Israel's Michal Negrin.

The embassy said a total of 17 dolls were auctioned off this year including 14 from top Czech designers.

From the auction alone, the Unicef was able to raise 225 crowns, or roughly \$9,800, equivalent to the cost of vaccinating 375 chil-

dren. Most of the participants in the auction were members of the business community in the Czech Republic.

Unicef's project aims to raise funds for a worldwide Unicef vaccination campaign by using a doll as a symbol that children around the world would recognize.

Salas said the main idea was for each doll to represent a real child from a developing country who would be vaccinated against the six most fatal childhood diseases: polio, tuberculosis, tetanus, measles, whooping cough and rubella.

Each doll is adopted or sold for the equivalent of \$20, which is the cost of providing immunization and vaccination.

Unicef again included in this year's fundraising campaign an auction event with donations of dolls created by well-known fashion designers and visual artists.



PITOI Moreno

Christmas-card masterpieces

THE YOUNG ARTISTS' FUND PROJECT (YAFP) debuted in 2004 to encourage the private sector to support the arts, particularly new talents.

YAFP issued a number of Christmas cards last year as a vehicle for young painters to showcase their pieces alongside known names in the industry. The favorable response to the project has inspired 12 artists to once more render Yuletide themes in a new collection of cards for 2005.

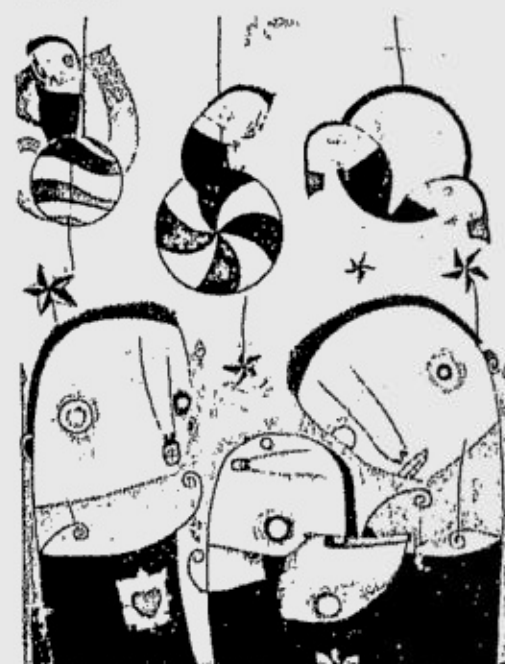
Each artwork, upon acquisition by a corporate sponsor, comes with 300 pieces of the Christmas card having the image as its cover.

The 12 artists featured in this year's collections are Fatima Antonio, Aris Bagtas, Yveese Belen, Michael Cacnio, Salvador Ching, Farley del Rosario, Romeo Forbes, Alfred Galura, Wilfredo Offemaria, Bin Samonte, Jef Samonte, and Rex Tatlonghari.

YAFP 2005 culminates with an exhibit of the 12 works this November. Call 6877302.



"THE MASTER Has the Barn," by Bin Samonte



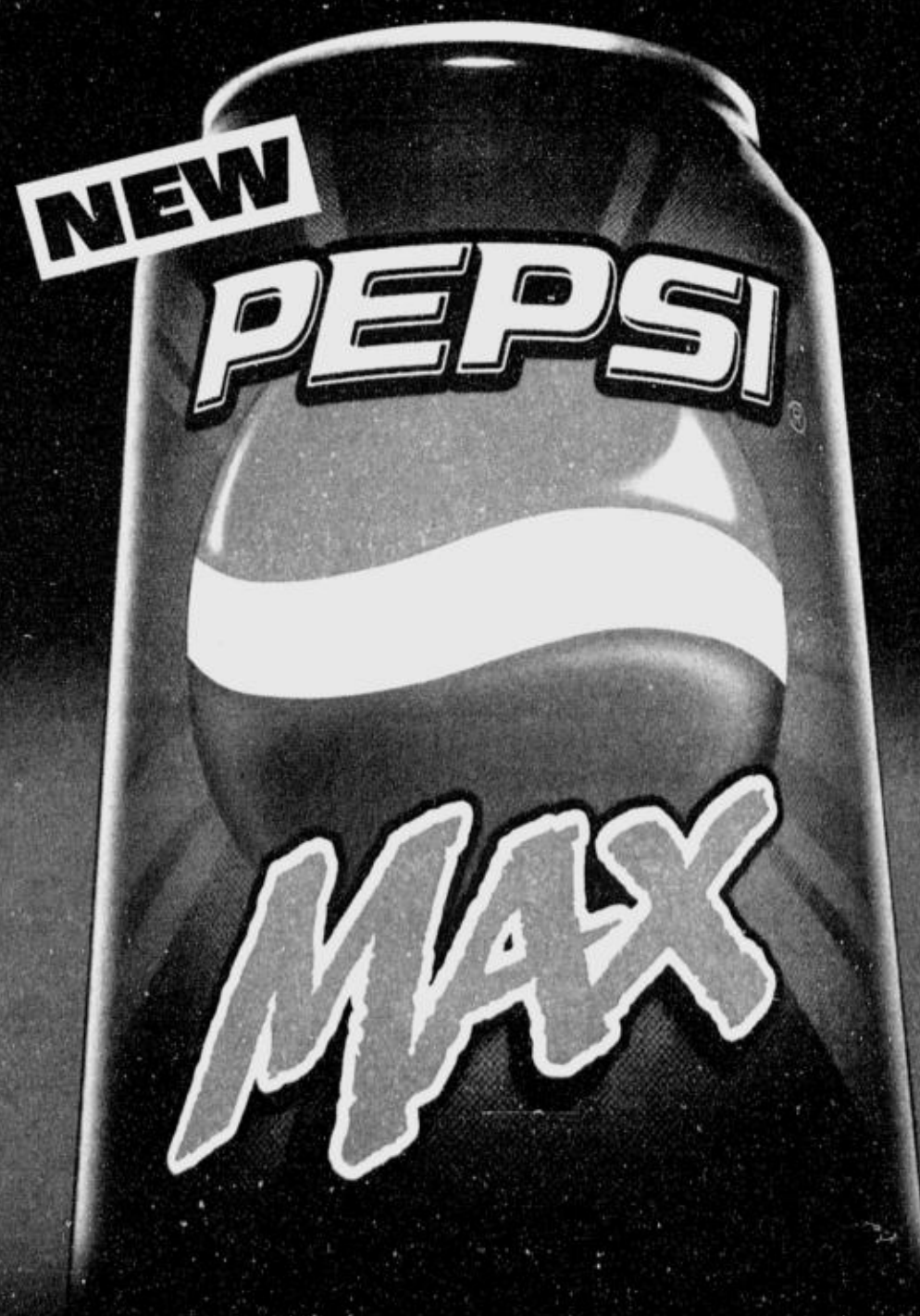
"JOY to the World," by Farley del Rosario



"MIDNIGHT Mass," by Romeo Forbes

**GUSTO MO NG
SUGAR?**

**HANAP KA NA
LANG SA
SUGAR MOMMY.**



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Shell awards outstanding student artists

COLLEGE STUDENTS FROM 64 SCHOOLS across the country submitted a record 1,277 entries in the recently concluded 38th Shell National Students Art Competition.

Ronald Remolacio from the University of the Philippines Diliman won the first prize in the oil/acrylic category with his still life narrative, "Posporo, Lampara at Kaldero."

From Davao's Philippine Women's College, Lamberto Acyatan won the second prize for "Getting to Know Reality." Rommel Joson of UP Diliman was third for "The Flight of Porky Budunski."

Honorable mention awards went to UP Diliman's Paolo Luis Francisco for "Pinoy Western," Crisanto Sator of Tarlac State University for "Jingle Bills," and Josef Zean Cabangis of UP Diliman for "Grid-d."

Reynan Sanchez of the University of the East (UE) won first place in the watercolor category for "Tuloy, Tuloy, Tuloy (Walang Hadlang)," showing a person who chooses not to be handicapped. Second prize went to "Tuloy ang Biyahe" by Marvic Millon Reyes of the Far Eastern University (FEU); it shows an overloaded jeepney as a metaphor for the country. Tarlac State University student Fernando Ramos Jr. got third prize for "We're Not A Toy," an indict-



"BUNGA ng Pagmamahal," by Nilo Asuncion

ment against child pornography.

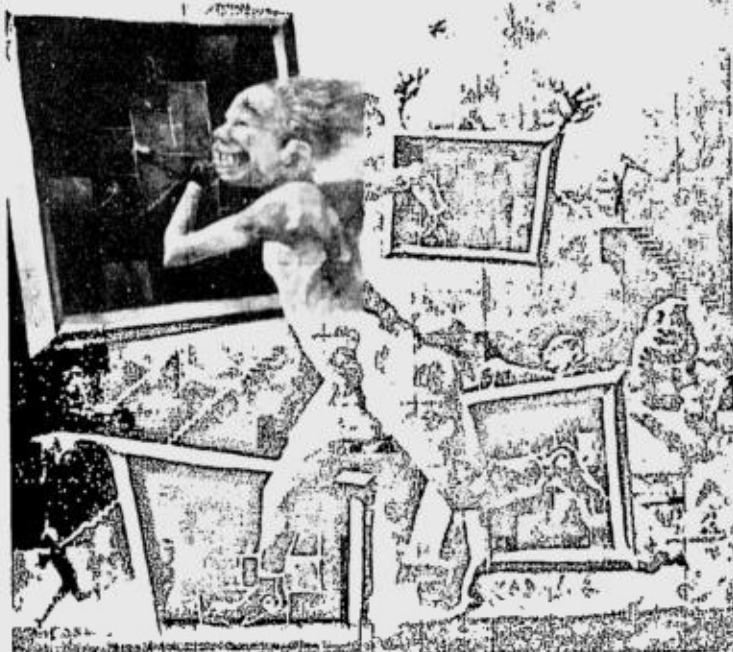
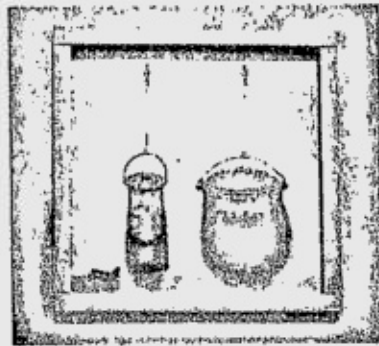
Honorable mention winners were: Nomer Miano of the University of San Carlos Technological Center for "Simulacra Exit," Ronald Jersano of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines for "Bating Panimula," and Aurelio Bautista of FEU for "Siksikan at Pataasan #2."

In the sculpture category, Nilo Asuncion of Aquinas University-Legazpi City won the first prize for his tribute to his parents, "Bunga ng Pagmamahal." The second prize was "Duplicity" by Danilo Luna Jr. of UP Diliman; it shows a static form and a dynamic figure emerging from behind it. Moved by the tragedies in Ormoc and Quezon, Omar-Sam Ramos of the FEU carved "Silent Cry II" which placed third prize.

Honorable mention winners were Rymer Gengoni of the Central Philippine University-Iloilo for "The Unfortunate One," Alvin Agustin of the University of Makati for "Decision Paths," and Jan Erwin So of UE-Calocan for "Ideal Society."

Ruth Gadia of UP Diliman placed first in the digital fine arts category for "Circuitous," which explores the idea of ambiguity through a technique that effects "a more painterly look" on her final art. Second placer Jan Olympus dela Cruz from the University of Santo Tomas (UST) created a digital art collage titled "Tulog Na Nenè..." to illustrate his version of eternal rest. University of Makati's Ryan Prianes won third prize with his entry, "Broken Dreams," which portrays how private hopes are extinguished because of political disarray.

Honorable mention winners were UST's Barnaby Jhon Magat for "Arsenal," Technological University of the Philippines' Mariel Estipona for "The Masquerade of Con God," and UST's Mark Gil Apelin for "Guided by the Light."



"TULOY, Tuloy, Tuloy (Walang Hadlang)," by Reynan S. Sanchez; at right, "Posporo, Lampara at Kaldero," by Ronald L. Remolacio

AAP now accepting entries

THE ART ASSOCIATION of the Philippines, in partnership with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Government System Insurance Security, formally an-

nounces the 58th annual AAP art competition.

Major categories are painting, mixed media and sculpture. Special categories are black and white drawing, photography, and digital art.

Only regular members between 16-20 years old may join the special categories.

Deadline for submission of entries is Nov. 26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at the GSIS Museum of Art, Financial Centre, Pasay City.

Call AAP at 3030907.



FU'AN Bridge over canals in Zhouzhuang is a Venetian setting in Asia.

If Europe has Venice, Asia has the endangered water towns in the southern Yangtze of China



A RESTORED granite bridge spans a "river street" in Luzhi town.

Waterworld

VENICE HAS FOREVER HELD THE ROMANTIC image of being the water city of the world, the western terminus of the fabled Silk Road where goods and ideas traveled to Europe from China and from other eastern countries along the route.

La Serenissima, as Venice was once known, is the opulent city of the Doges and Marco Polo. Her glory is timeless, although today she captures gold from a multitude of tourists instead of from trade in exotic eastern goods.

On the other side of the world, a relatively unknown cluster of centuries-old water towns has existed simultaneously with La Serenissima. Built as early as the 11th century in the southern Yangtze region of China, the towns flourished between the 13th to the 16th centuries.

The network of water towns are proof that regardless of geographic and cultural differences there are strong heritage and lifestyle similarities in towns where people choose to live in close contact with water.

The cityscapes, whether western or eastern, are similar. Stately Venetian palazzi stand at the edge of the Grand Canal in counterpoint to the more humble houses following the banks of narrow secondary waterways that twist behind the Grand Canal.

Established as rural trading outposts and not centers of power and wealth as Venice was, water towns in China are far more intimate in scale.

Rustic houses

Rustic, elegant houses in the Chinese style, built centuries ago in a combination of wood, stone and terra cotta roof tiles still stand, sometimes forming a solid line of façades along canals. Although many houses open directly to private docks on the water, others group around tree-lined promenades or small plazas that run along both sides of the waterways.

Bridges are stone exclamation points spanning waterways with unparalleled grace. If Venice has her famed Rialto, the water towns in China have granite moon-shaped bridges leaping across the water with the poise of a ballet dancer.

The roofscape adds to the visual identity of the water towns. A succession of tiled roofs cascade practically down to the water; their upturned eaves prevent roofs from visually crashing down to the canals.

Venice was built on a series of lagoons and rivers. The geography of the Chinese water towns is similar. When the Yangtze reaches the border of south Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces not too far from Shanghai, its waters flow into Taihu Lake to form an alluvial plain crisscrossed by a vast network of rivers and creeks. That is where towns were built as early as the 11th century.

China's Grand Canal is far grander than that of Venice. The man-made Grand Canal of China also passes through the alluvial area of the Yangtze, providing another water connection that links the many river towns to one another, providing access from the town network reaching as far as Beijing to the north and Hangzhou to the south.

The Grand Canal, China's third major waterway after the Yangtze and Yellow rivers, is the longest artificial waterway in the world. Built during the Sui Dynasty (589-618), it originally stretched 1800 km from Hangzhou in south China to Beijing in the north. Although most of it is no longer navigable today, some parts are being dredged in an attempt to revive the canal.

Need for revival

Revival is needed for the Chinese water towns. For years Professor Ruan Yishang of Tongji University in Shanghai has been working on their conservation.

Professor Ruan's programs started on the community level, in which residents were made aware of the water towns and their special heritage. This was followed by meetings between residents and the town government in an attempt to synchronize the requirements of conservation and development.

Once consensus was achieved that conservation and development could go hand in hand, actual conservation projects were undertaken to

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon



restore decaying houses, sidewalks, bridges, and dredging waterways.

The conservation projects delineated heritage zones from development zones, established guidelines on conservation of heritage architecture while encouraging new development that would not damage the fragile heritage.

The results were fantastic. Traditional atmosphere returned to the towns, resulting in an increased sense of pride that the residents actively safeguarded their traditions. Most importantly, the quality of life in the water towns improved greatly.

Professor Ruan Yishang won one of the Unesco Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Awards in 2003 for the first phase of his water towns revitalization project. This year he was among the recipients of the 2005 Unesco Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Awards.

Water towns, whether in Europe or Asia, face serious threat these days and are all fighting for survival. The examples of Venice and the Chinese water towns of the southern Yangtze show that there is hope for their future.

One water city speaks Italian while her Asian sisters speak Chinese. Despite their great cultural difference, their people's water-bound lifestyles are similar and their heritage cityscapes are unparalleled in the world. In either case, their attempts at survival are equally laudable.

Feedback is welcome at afvillalon@hotmail.com



STEEP tiled roofs appear to cascade into the canal at Wuzheng.



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CAMILLE Lopez

Full-length opera could be staged again with the audience's excitement over visiting Filipino artists

Opera scene hits high notes again

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

THE STANDING OVATION LAST WEEK for "Opera Now" by the relatively young Philippine Opera Company headed by Karla Gutierrez and Jay Glorioso at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) was a good

omen for the moribund opera scene in the country.

It meant opera (although the audience got only excerpts) had a potentially good following and more should be forthcoming. It was a fairly good production, well-marketed, well-publicized and, from the looks of it, the producers worked very hard.

It had the support of music patron Alfonso Yuchengco, who always comes to the rescue of fund-starved productions.

"Opera Now had a jewel of a singer in Camille Lopez, who rendered a seamless "Ritorna vincitor" (from Verdi's "Aida"). Aileen Cura was vocally focused in De Leon's "Kay Tamis ng Buhay" (from the opera "Noli Me Tangere"), and so was Nelyn Cabahug in "Celeste Aida" (from "Aida").

Lionel Guico should have opened the concert with the rousing "Largo al factotum" (from Rossini's "Barber of Seville") instead of the bland "Libiamo," which was more a fashion showcase than ensemble singing.

Karla Gutierrez's "Addio del Pasato" (from "Traviata") was reminiscent of Teresa Stratas in the Zeffirelli film of the same opera. She managed to capture Violetta's grief with good acting. But the aria required more than just a semblance of vocal technique but years of immersion in the part.

Anna Feleo was vocally and visually striking in Bizet's "Chanson Boheme." There was no need to share the part with two other singers who were upstaged by the Fundacion Flamenco dancers led by a fiery Emma Estrada and a willowy Lucy Torres-Gomez.

Fashion comedy preceded Ramon Acoymo's rendition of "Vesti la giubba." His line was secure

and the dramatic tenor voice captured the tragic-comic destiny of Canio.

Still, it was a mystery why tragic laughter in one part was omitted in favor of costume change.

Good singing and acting blended in the Gerswhin duet of Nenen Espina and Jun

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JOSEPH Valdes, violinist



POCHOLO Gutierrez, cellist



PAULINA Gutierrez, violinist



JACOB Sarreal, saxophonist

The young and the gifted

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Raffy Lerma

WHAT JACOB SARREAL, JOSEPH Valdes, Paulina and Pocholo Gutierrez lack in years, they make up for with an impressive show of talent, determination and drive. Each of these outstanding teenagers shares a common thread—a willingness to succeed in the world of music.

With patience and the support of family, these four musical prodigies will certainly go places.

Jacob Sarreal

Jacob Sarreal, 17, learned to play the soprano saxophone at the age of 5, under the tutelage of his oldest brother. When he turned 10, Jacob learned to play the clarinet. Two months after his first lessons, he joined the National Music Competition for Young Artists (Namcy) and received the highest honor during that year.

"I owe a lot to the support and encouragement of my mom and dad," says Jacob, whose skills now include playing the alto saxophone, oboe, guitar and drums. He's part of several symphony orchestras and has performed in

hundreds of international and local events.

"Jacob's three brothers greatly influenced him because they all know how to play various musical instruments," says Marissa Sarreal, Jacob's mother.

She adds that music for his son is a means to reach out and help people. Jacob offers free lessons to poor children in his community and, together with his brothers, performs in orphanages, charitable institutions and homes for the elderly. The young saxophonist also donates portions of his prize money from competitions to outreach, civic and environmental programs.

Joseph Valdes

When he was 9 years old, Joseph Valdes took up violin lessons as part of his school requirements. He decided to pursue his passion and even begged his parents to find him a mentor.

"Coke Bolipata was the first person that came to mind," says Luchi Cruz-Valdes, Joseph's mom. He was willing to train students, but Joseph would have to audition for his spot. He passed, prompting the world-renowned violinist to predict that the gifted child could master a Vivaldi piece in three months. Joseph proved Bolipata right.

After a year, Joseph participated in NAM-

cya and placed among the Top 7. He has since performed in numerous Pundaquit Virtuosi concerts in Casa San Miguel, Zambales.

"If it weren't for my mom and dad, I wouldn't be where I am now," says the 14-year-old artist, whose repertoire now includes Vivaldi, Krysler and Bach.

Paulina and Pocholo Gutierrez

Mary Ann Gutierrez recalls the day she first noticed her daughter Paulina's gift. "We were on a connecting flight to Hong Kong when I saw her listening to tunes on the airline headset," she says. "To my surprise, it was classical music. She was barely 4 years old then."

Mary Ann and her husband immediately signed Paulina up for piano lessons, and at age 6, violin lessons under Coke Bolipata. In 2002, she won in Namcy.

Her parents, Paulina says, are her inspiration. "My mom's my idol, she's always there when you need her." Now 13 years old, the young prodigy performs Bach, Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn and Beethoven. She belongs to the Pundaquit Virtuosi and is the youngest member of an orchestra based in SBMA, Subic.

Paulina's brother, Pocholo, 12, also began to play the violin at the age of 4. But upon the suggestion of his mentor, Bolipata, he moved

Four musical prodigies are set to enchant music-lovers in a November concert at Aliw Theater

on to a bigger challenge—the cello. Pocholo finished three years of cello classes in less than one year. "He can express his feelings more with it," Mary Ann says.

Pocholo draws strength from the love and support of his parents. "They're the best," he says. The youngest student of Renato Lucas, principal cellist of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, he regularly plays as part of a string ensemble and is training for the solo cello competition in the coming Namcy.

In celebration of the National Week for the Gifted and Talented, Jacob Sarreal, Joseph Valdes, Paulina and Pocholo Gutierrez will join Regine Velasquez in "Reflections." The concert series will be held Nov. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19, and Dec. 9 and 10, 8:30 p.m., at Aliw Theater, inside Star City.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Opera scene hits high notes again

From page D1

Jaranilla ("Bess You Is My Woman Now"). For the most part, the "Rigoletto" and "La Boheme" quartets were uneven though well-acted.

The direction by Floy Quintos was imaginative, Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) guest conductor Hermie Ranera was competent.

"O Fortuna" from Carmina Burana was out of place in this production (the Carl Orff opus is not an opera).

"Nessun dorma" by four tenors and several soloists with the University of the Philippines Concert Chorus ended a well-received production.

Excitement

Full-length opera could be staged again next year with the audience showing excitement over visiting Filipino artists.



RAMON Acoymo



CARLA Gutierrez

ment over visiting Filipino artists.

Tenor Otoniel Gonzaga got a standing ovation for his performances at Philamlife Theater and Ayala Museum. Gonzaga reiterated his hope of mounting world-class opera productions in Manila before singing "Impossible Dream" at Ayala Museum.

A week later, he met CCP board trustee Nedy Tantoco, who expressed interest in mounting "Turandot" next year.

The National Opera season in Washington, DC opened recently with selected acts from "Vespri Siciliani," "Otello" and "Merry Widow" and featuring Placido Domingo and Mirelli Freni.

Gonzaga was understudy to Domingo and another tenor in "Vespri Siciliani" where Domingo was the conductor.

The Filipino tenor will be back in Manila Jan. 25 to sing with the PPO under the baton of Julian Quirit. Lea Salonga, who is preparing for her Carnegie Hall debut in November, will be guest artist.

Another Filipino celebrity had a successful concert in Canada recently. Soprano Eleanor

Calbes will have a special homecoming concert at the Philamlife Theater on Nov. 25 with pianist Raul Sunico.

She was last heard at the CCP in the title role of Francisco Feliciano's "La Loba Negra" and at the Manila Metropolitan Theater's "Pearl Fisher" (as Leila) by Bizet. She has received several awards in Canada for excellence in music as best director in a musical.

With another opera icon, Evelyn Mandac, these opera singers made names abroad. Mandac and Calbes are the last of the country's real divas (in terms of experience and stature, not by publicity hype).

Gonzaga will probably go down in history as the first and last Filipino tenor to hobnob with the likes of Pablo Casals, Domingo, Eugene Ormandy, Herbert von Karajan and the great Maria Callas (he was in one of her memorable master classes).

Rave

Everybody was raving over Brahms's Symphony No. 1 in the opening season concert of the PPO under the baton of Eugene Castillo. But there was disappointment in the choice of William George as tenor soloist for Kenneth Leighton's Symphony No. 3, Op. 90.

He could hardly be heard and signs of vocal indisposition were noticeable. It takes a good singer to introduce an unknown symphonic work for tenor and orchestra.

The new production to watch is the national tour of Mozart's "The Magic Flute," last seen at the CCP in the early '80s under the musical direction of Sarah Caldwell. Call the Philippine Opera Company at 8958097. Call 9017156 or 0910-8851136 for the Nov. 25 show of Calbes and the Jan. 25 team-up of Salonga and Gonzaga.

HIGHLY ACCLAIMED PIANIST Mary Anne Espina is the featured artist in the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Filipino Artists Series which culminates on Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m., at the CCP Little Theater.

Program consists of J.S. Bach: F. Busoni's Chaconne in D Minor, BWV. 1004, W.A. Mozart's Sonata in B-flat Major, KV 570, F. Chopin's 4 Ballades (Ballade No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 23; Ballade No. 2 in F Major, Op. 38; Ballade No. 3 in A-flat Major, Op. 47; and Ballade No. 4 in F Minor, Op. 52), A. Consolacion's Diversions and M. Maramba's Piano Piece 2005.

Known for her excellence in both chamber and opera music, Espina is one of the most sought-after collaborating artists in the country today. From 1993, she has maintained an exceptionally hectic musical career.

She was the pianist for the full-length staging of "Le Nozze di Figaro," "Great Moments in Grand Opera," and for "Puccini: A Retrospect," which featured Japanese soprano Kaori Sato.

She joined the Manila Woodwind Ensemble at the Asian Music Festival in Seoul, Korea in 2002. She was the repetiteur and keyboard player of the hit Broadway musical, "Miss Saigon," in Manila, Hong Kong and Singapore.

She was pianist of CCP's Kon-siyertong Tatlong Kusing (Special



MARY Anne Espina

Concerts Series 2002) staged at Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino. She continues to team up with outstanding local and international artists in all the major concert venues in the country.

Mary Anne earned her Master of Arts in Music degree, summa cum laude, from the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, under the tutelage of renowned Filipino pianists Manuel Maramba, OSB, and Raul Sunico, who is also dean of the UST Conservatory of Music.

She finished her undergraduate studies at the St. Scholastica's College of Music. Her other mentors include Myrna Damaso and Erlinda Fule, former dean of the UST Conservatory.

Call 8321125 loc. 1604-1605 or 8323681. Call Ticketnet at 9915555, Ticketworld at National Bookstore and Tower Records at 8919999, and CCP Box Office 8323704.

New Voice stages Lloyd Webber's 'Aspects of Love'

FRESH FROM RECENT SUCCESSFUL productions—"Frozen," "The Blue Room" and the smash hit musical "Cabaret"—the New Voice Company is staging Andrew Lloyd Webber's international hit musical "Aspects of Love" this November.

"Aspects of Love" has been called "a remarkably daring piece of work... defining the lyric theater of the future," as well as a "charming piece—a magical energy of music and mood—a whole new world of intelligent and intimate adult songs."

"Aspects" weaves together the stories of a handsome young man, a beautiful actress, an elderly aristocrat, an Italian lady and a 15-year-old girl, their troubled desires and tangled emotions flowering against the background of the south of France, Italy and Paris.

Leading the powerhouse cast for this romantic musical hit is 2005 Aliw

Awardee for Best Actress in a Musical (for "Cabaret") Monique Wilson as Rose, acclaimed "Miss Saigon" alumnus Jake Macapagal as Alex, theater artists Leo Rialp (last seen in "Cabaret") as George, Roselyn Perez (who won rave reviews as the mother in "Frozen") as Giulietta, and young newcomers Nikki Ventosa and Mika Margolles (both NVC resident artists) alternating in the role of Jenny.

Rito Asilo plays Rose's manager Marcel, Lynn Sherman (last seen in a star performance in "Cabaret") plays the dual parts of Elizabeth and the Circus Chanteuse, and young talents Julia Abueva, Krystal Kane and Gaby Tantuico alternate in the part of 12-year-old Jenny. Topper Fabregas plays Rose's young lover, Hugo.

Completing the cast are some of the country's finest theater artists—Jenny Jamora, Angela Padilla, Lily Chu, Gina

Samson, Crisel Consunji, Amiel Mendoza, Dandy Ramos and Nelson Caruncho.

"Aspects of Love," with music by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, lyrics by Don Black and Charles Hart, is based on the novella by David Garnett. The musical runs at the Republic of Malate Theater Nov. 4-Dec. 3, with Friday and Saturday night performances at 8 p.m.

Direction is by Monique Wilson with Jenny Jamora as assistant director and Rito Asilo as acting coach. Musical direction is by Nelson Caruncho with choreography by Dexter Santos and Jeff Garcia as dance captain. Light design is by Martin Esteve with Jamie Wilson as technical director, and Sabrina Villafior and Veronica Kallos on piano.

Call 8966695, 8965497, 8990630 or 8919999. E-mail nvc@pldtdsl.net or visit www.newvoicecompany.com



THE LEADING characters of "Aspects of Love": (on the floor) Nikki Ventosa as Jenny at 15, Gaby Tantuico as Jenny at 12; (on the sofa) Lynn Sherman as Elizabeth, Monique Wilson as Rose, Leo Rialp as George, Roselyn Perez as Giulietta; (standing) Rito Asilo as Marcel, Jake Macapagal as Alex, Topper Fabregas as Hugo



A PLETHORA of Rep alumni: Cocoy Laurel, Nic Manahan, Robbie Guevara, Menchu Yulo, Michael Williams, Joy Virata, Miguel Faustmann, Cathy Azanza, and Audie Gemora in Rep's "Man of La Mancha"

The power of dreams

By Cathy Azanza
Contributor

AFTER FOUR YEARS, I'm finally back at Repertory Philippines to join in November's offering of Dale Wasserman's "Man of La Mancha," the musical based on Miguel de Cervantes' literary masterpiece "Don Quixote."

The cast is a plethora of fellow Rep alumni—Michael Williams, Audie Gemora, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Miguel Faustmann, Joy Virata, Cocoy Laurel, Robbie Guevara, Rem Zamora, Niccolo Manahan. And we are blessed to be joined by international flamenco star Clara Ramona and the Manila Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Prof. Toti Molina.

"La Mancha" marks a homecoming for many of us. It is only fitting. This was, after all, the last show our mentor Zeneida "Tita Bibot" Amador requested for this season before she passed away.

Every day, as we plough through our scripts, we discover the beauty of her choice.

Great adventures

As a child, my father had acquainted me with the story of Don Quixote de La Mancha. He said that it was the story of an elderly man from the Spanish province of La Mancha, who rode the countryside as a knight-errant, staunchly adhering to the code of chivalry, accompanied by his faithful friend and squire, Sancho.

I was told of Don Quixote's fight with a windmill he mistook for an evil ogre and his joyous discovery of the Golden Helmet of Mambrino, which in reality, was a mere shaving basin.

Though my father told me Don Quixote was considered a madman by most of those he met along the way, as a child, I hardly thought of it that way. In my mind, Don Quixote merely chose to see things differently and create these great adventures—as I myself would devise my own little adventures in our backyard when I played.

Now once more confronted with the story of Don Quixote as an adult, I realize there may have been some tiny grain of knowledge in my child-like perception of this tale. Perhaps, to truly understand the story of Don Quixote, we must see him through hopeful eyes—as those of a child.

Dale Wasserman's "Man of La Man-



TITA Bibot Amador (with Menchu Yulo and Ana Bitong) looking hale and happy during her surprise 70th birthday party

cha" precisely aims to help audiences see life in a different light. In the play, the elderly Don Quixote struts the stage with a twisted sword and a broken lance (actually a tree branch), converses with thieves as though they were noble lords, and sees the honor and beauty of the Lady Dulcinea in the lowly prostitute Aldonza.

Simply put, the play is a modern cynic's nightmare.

No solutions

Let us admit we have all been cynics at one time or another. It cannot be helped. After all, in our society alone, we cannot deny there is much to be cynical about.

There's the incremental rise in prices of commodities which leaves us doubtful every day that our economy will recover. There's the prevalent lack of trust in the system of government.

There's the politicking. There's the concern over the integrity of the media. There's the employment rate. There's the warring of the social classes. There's the dwindling supply of natural resources, quickly followed by the abuse of what little resources we have left.

We know these problems all too well.

Now, I do not think "Man of La Mancha" offers any solutions. However, it may propose something a little more lasting: a perspective that could lead to finding solutions.

I believe this is precisely why this musical appealed to Tita Bibot and why she chose to share it with all of us.

Tita Bibot had always believed the only way our country would progress was through a change of heart. She never thought there was any lack of talent, just that there was a lack of will.



RENOWNED flamenco dancer Clara Ramona will be featured in Rep's "Man of La Mancha."

When I started writing this article, I was afraid of sounding too idealistic. It's strange, but in this day and age, you do risk a certain stigma for being a little too hopeful.

Perhaps it's because painful reality slaps us in the face way too often. Most of the time, it's considered wiser just to brace for impact.

However, I have come to realize you can't get around being idealistic when dealing with Don Quixote de La Mancha, for this is the very core of his story and his journey.

Don Quixote is about striving toward impossible dreams, no matter how difficult the path may be. It is about hoping for a better world and acting to achieve it. It is about seeing possibilities and making them real.

Tita Bibot had always told her actors: "Theater is a great teacher." In choosing "Man of La Mancha," I believe she wanted to share the lessons she herself had learned through this piece of theater: the power of dreams and the message of hope.

Cathy Azanza started her theater career as a 16-year-old when Zeneida Amador took her in as part of the chorus in Rep's "South Pacific." Eight years later, Cathy is portraying the pivotal role of Antonia, niece of Don Quixote, in Rep's coming production of "Man of La Mancha."

It runs Nov. 11-Dec. 18 in Rep's Globe Theater at OnStage, Greenbelt 1. Call 8870710.

ROEDER Camañag (Tales), Perry Dizon (Tata Selo), Melinda Peña (Andang), Pamela Hundana (Pepay), Wowie de Guzman (Don Simoun), and Roence Santos (Victorina)



'El Filibusterismo' from Gantimpala Theater

GANTIMPALA THEATER FOUNDATION (GTF), in cooperation with the National Parks Development Committee, is presenting "El Filibusterismo," the final installment of GTF's Four Classics—along with "Florante at Laura," "Kanser (Noli Me Tangere)" and "Ibong Adarna."

In this production written for the stage by Jomar Fleras, Don Simoun the jeweler uses the captain-general and others around him by encouraging them to commit flagrant injustice, thus creating unrest and a favorable climate for a revolution.

Simoun's plot to destroy Spanish officialdom is but a chaotic distraction for him on the road to fulfilling his mission—to rescue Maria Clara, his beloved, from a convent. However, in one broad stroke, all his scheming and planning will fail. At death's door, he questions God's justice.

"The drama continues," says director Soxie Topacio. "The setting is different, but the characters are essentially the same. The knaves and the patriots are playing their respective roles with more personal conviction and escalating emotions!"

The GTF Actors Company counts by Wowie de Guzman (Don Simoun), Roeder Camañag (Kabesang Tales/Mr. Leeds), Soliman Cruz (Padre Florentino/Taga-Pagsalaysay), Roence Santos (Doña Victorina), Jorge Cabullo (Kapitan Tiyago), Perry Dizon (Tata Selo), Billy Parjan (Padre Salvi), Joel Molina (Basilio), Nelia Aguado (Julia), Yutaka Yamakawa Jr. (Juanito Pelaez), Karl Emmanuel Carrascal (Isagani), Siena Marie Orellano (Paulita), Christopher David (Quiroga), Richard Garcia (Placido Penitente), Perry Escaño (Kapi-



JORGE Cabullo (Don Tiyago) and Joel Molina (Basilio)

tan), and Pamela Hundana (Hermana Penchang/Pepay).

Providing artistic and production support are Roobak Valle (production design), Benjie Cayetano (lighting design), Francis Sy-Changco (sound collage), Billy Parjan (assistant director), Lani Tapia (stage manager), Ruby Solmerano (supervising production manager), and Jill Pangilinan (production manager).

Performances are on Nov. 6, 6 p.m., open-air auditorium, Luneta, Manila; Nov. 10-13, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., AFP Theater, Quezon City; Nov. 18-19, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Saint Cecilia's Hall, Saint Scholastica's Manila; Nov. 25-26, RFC Cinema Theater, Las Piñas City; Dec. 1, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., SM South Mall.

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New works at the CCP

THE CULTURAL CENTER of the Philippines opens its doors to new works and artists with a festival of works in progress billed "Waiting in the Wings."

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- Nov. 10, Bulwagang Amado Hernandez, 5 p.m., Fides Cuyugan Asencio and Music Theater Foundation presents "Maria Makiling at ang Mga Nuno Sa Punso," a new take on the legend of Mariang Mak-

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- Nov. 24, Bulwagang Amado Hernandez, 5 p.m., Tambul Dance and Theater Ensemble/Filemon Blanco.

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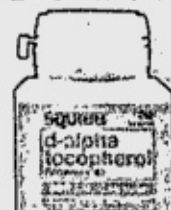
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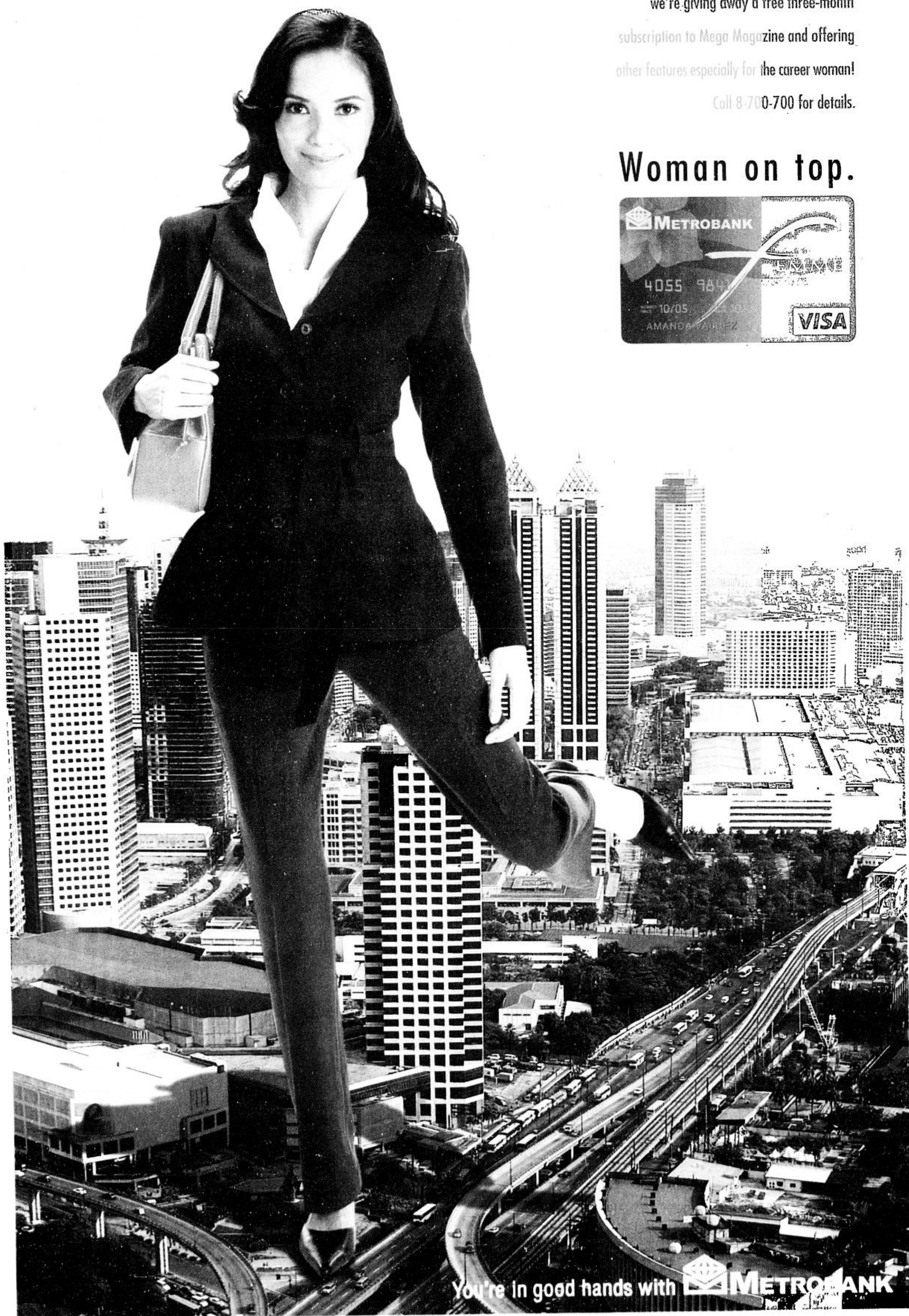
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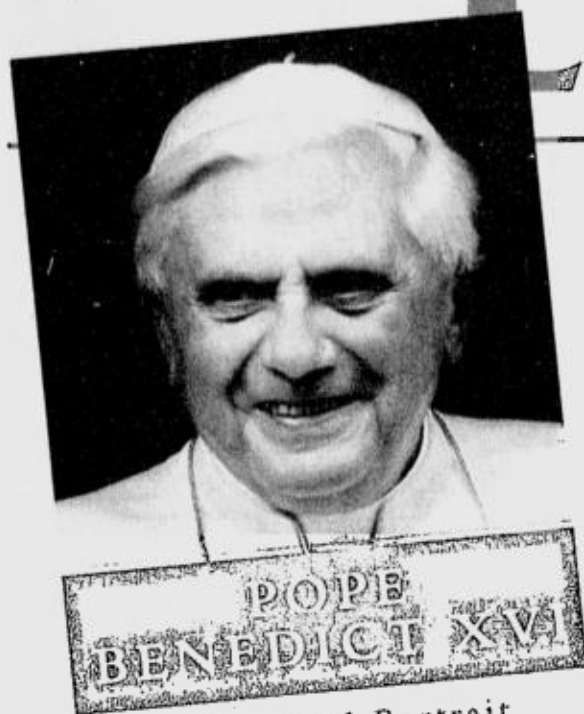
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The new Pope will foster a constituency that is at home in traditional liturgy and wants to focus on the core dimensions of the gospel

Benedict XVI and the 'new Catholics'

By C.G. Arévalo, S.J.
Contributor

SINCE TAKING OVER OF THE PETRINE See, Joseph Ratzinger (JR) has been the subject of innumerable articles in newspapers and magazines, occupying for instance some eight or more pages in the Time and Newsweek issues of May 2, and taking up millions of words in publications, on radio and TV broadcasts throughout the world.

Claretian Publications has just made available a moderately priced Philippine edition of the English version of Heinz-Joachim Fischer's "Pope Benedict XVI: A Personal Portrait."

Fischer is the Vatican correspondent for the German newspaper, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. He has spent much of his life in Rome, first as a seminarian-student of philosophy and theology at the Jesuit Gregoriana University, then later as a journalist and media person. For years—since 1976—he has known Cardinal Ratzinger. This personal background of some 30 years serves as a strong base from which to write a book like the present biography/por-

trait. Fischer does know JR's thinking on many issues, "churchy," secular and personal. Much of the information he gives us we can receive with confidence because generally "he knows whereof he speaks." His reporting on the election which ended in Pope Benedict XVI's choice, for instance, seems to be better informed than most of what the press has hitherto been giving us.

Fischer's Pope Benedict XVI, undoubtedly a very well-informed report, briefly runs through

JR's life before the call to Rome to head the Congregation of Doctrine (1981), then gives a well-developed and, in all, a very good account of JR's 23 years in the Congregation.

This second section may well be this book's most valuable and more original part. There follow the reports on the interregnum between the death of John Paul II and the April 20 "Habemus Papam" proclamation. The final 70-page section is almost an independent essay on the new pope and prospects of his papacy. There are several pages of good photographs, and some useful appendices.

'Refreshingly post-modern'

The book's final pages are Fischer's development of the banner theme of Newsweek's May 2, 2005, cover, "Benedict XVI: What he means for the world's Catholics." "The Expectations for Reform (Will Benedict XVI be a reforming Pope?), Conservative in Principle, Upholding the Tradition, Faith as the Reason for Joy," and, very interestingly, "The New Pope and the New Catholics"—these subtitles already hint at the shape Benedict XVI's rule will assume, what "the new Catholics" of Benedict XVI are or will be like.

These new Catholics whom Fischer describes are "refreshingly post-modern" (sic). Their Catholicism is, as the new Pope's is, a lived faith that has weathered the fierce storms of recent decades and has found a new equilibrium and a new security, a faith "ever ancient and ever new."

Their priorities are "the core dimensions of

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BART Guingona reads from the winning poetry in English collection, "Before Talkies," by Allan J. Pastrana.



ROEDER reads from the winning Filipino collection, "Pagsilip sa Bunganga ng Araw," by Joseph de Luna Saguid.



Virgilio Almarino and Miclat Foundation director Alma Cruz congratulate Poetry Award winner in Filipino, Joseph de Luna Saguid of UST.

WITH the late Maningning Miclat's artwork, "Tatluhan: Triptych," in the background, Mario I. Miclat of the Miclat Foundation announces poetry contest winners. With him are Vim Nadera, Joaquin Sy, James Na, Gemino H. Abad, Almarino, Rogelio Mangahas, Linda Halili, Rebecca T. Anonuevo, Edna Zapanta Manlapaz, Buenaventura, Sunico, Lucas, Alma Cruz Miclat, Guingona and Roeder



Young writers feted at Maningning Miclat Awards

THREE YOUNG POETS were proclaimed winners of the 2005 Maningning Miclat Poetry Awards in a musical concert recently at the Cultural Center of the Philippines which featured concert pianist Raul Sunico, solo cellist Renato Lucas and violin prodigy Regina Buenaventura.

The awards were handed out by National Artist for Literature Virgilio Almarino with the Maningning Miclat Art Foundation Inc. (MMAFI) trustees Alma Cruz Miclat, Joaquin Sy and Fe B. Mangahas.

Joseph de Luna Saguid, 19, a fourth-year Communication Arts student from the University of Santo Tomas, won in the Filipino category from among the three finalists, that include University of the Philippines' MA student Mesandel Virtusio Arguelles and UST's Sonny Corpus Sendon. Theater and movie actor and singer Roeder read a piece from the winning collection titled "Pagsilip sa Bunganga ng Araw."

In the English category, Allan J. Pastrana, a Piano and Music Literature major also at the UST and

twice Thomasian Poet of the Year and winner of the Rector's Literary Award, UST's highest award for student writers, won from among three finalists that include Ateneo de Manila University graduates, Catherine Candano and Edgar J.C. Galang. Consummate actor, stage director and producer Bart Guingona read the first and last poems from the winning collection entitled "Before Talkies."

China's Ye Cai-sheng from Guangdong province won in the Chinese category. A Philippine poet writing in Chinese, Grace Lee read a piece from the winning collection, "Awake," while De La Salle University professor Shirley Lua read the English translation

in the concert/poetry awards emceed by poet, fictionist, essayist and UP professor Mario I. Miclat.

Concert

The event, dubbed "Tatluhan/Triptych" featured Raul Sunico's piano rendition of Granados' *Allegro de Concierto*, Chopin's *Nocturne in F-sharp*, op 15 no. 2, *Rippling Waters* (Planting Rice) arranged by Rodis and Wagner/Liszt's *Liebestod* as well as Renato Lucas' rendition of Max Bruch's *Kol Nidrei* and Regina Buenaventura's take on Rachmaninoff's *Vocalise* and Ravel's *Tzigane*.

The highlight of the program, which also showcased Maningning's painting "Triptych" at the

background, is the trio's ensemble rendition of Regina's grandfather, National Artist Antonino Buenaventura's *Buklod ng Pagmamahal* and Mendelssohn's *Trio in D Minor*, 1st Movement.

The Maningning Miclat Award for Poetry was first held in 2003. Last year, the Maningning Award for Painting was held and will be held during even numbered years. The 2005 grand prize winners each received P28,000 and a Julie Luch sculpture trophy.

The China-born multi-awarded artist and trilingual poet, published author, translator and art teacher, Maningning Miclat for whom the Award is dedicated, was only 28 when she passed

away on Sept. 29, 2000. CCP artistic director Fernando Josef and MMAFI trustee Edna Zapanta Manlapaz in their speech at the concert/awards night extolled the virtues and the passion for the arts of Maningning Miclat.

The event also served as a fundraiser for MMAFI as well as the CCP's Sagip Baryo project. Major sponsors were the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Associations, ASPAC International and Zest-O.

E-mail maningningfoundation@gmail.com and log on to www.maningning.com.

Hub of young readers

By Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz
Contributor

When I discovered libraries, it was like having Christmas everyday.—Jean Fritz

THERE WAS A TOUCH OF IRONY when we began the two-day training for Naga's public school teacher-librarians for the Department of Education's much-awaited Library Hub Project, a literacy program under the DepEd's Adopt-a-School Program. The person who had conceptualized and brought the project to life, Usec. Mike Luz, had just been removed from office.

But the Library Hub is much too significant to be dependent on the vagaries of politics, so that even bereft of his office, Luz had given word that the Library Hub should continue.

If there are wholesale warehouse supermarkets, why not wholesale children's libraries? Perhaps they would resolve the dilemma of not having the books with which to make the younger generations avid readers.

Since there are 37,000 public elementary schools all over the country, setting up a respectable library collection in each of the schools would take time and be prohibitive in costs.

Thus, the next best thing would be to bring colorful, illustrated children's books and supplementary reading materials by Filipino and foreign authors to public schools nationwide. This would ensure that every child becomes a regular reader by Grade 3.

Thus, the Library Hub. Some 300 such hubs are targeted for 184 school divisions nationwide.

For the project, P80 million will come from the government and P30 million from the World Bank. The local government units, local school boards and PTAs along with many pri-



DAVAO City superintendent Gloria Labor: "I love reading!"



STORYTELLER Nolo Silayan in action

private corporations support certain aspects of the project.

The Hub will house book bundles of 100-200 books per bundle in roll-away plastic bins on wheels, arranged by grade level and theme. These will be lent to schools for a 25-day period and will in turn be "retailed" by teacher-librarians to the students and teachers from their own reading corners.

The project received a left-handed compliment from Marit Belisario who runs a progressive preschool in Davao. She complained, "The private schools have no access to the Library Hub!"

When we visited the Library Hub in Davao City, it smelled of fresh paint. Impressive were the steel shelves, a network computer room, and a conference and training room.

The weekend training orients teachers on strategies to make the books come alive for school kids. It acquaints them with a sampling of the titles from the collection of at least 25,000 books, and gives them the opportunity to learn storytelling from Manolo Silayan, immediate past president of Alitaptap Storytellers Philippines and current chair of the PBBY.

In Davao, Sa Aklat Sisikat head trainer Dali Soriano ran a session on

"Understanding Reading." Davao author-illustrator Marcy Dans Lee and I made up the rest of the training team. In Naga, the training was run by Dr. Elena Cudongco of the National Book Development Board.

On the staff of the Library Hub project are Marge M. Barro as project manager and Beverly Gonda of the office of Luz as project officer.

Progressive Naga City Mayor and Ramon Magsaysay awardee

Jesse Robredo looked forward to the soft opening of the very first Library Hub on Oct. 26, deliberately chosen because it was Raul Roco Day in Naga City. Davao City superintendent Gloria Labor meanwhile told teachers that reading had been a special passion of hers. "I love reading!" she said.

So who would quarrel with a program that benefits many school children and promotes literacy?

The author is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (tel. 3723548, e-mail adarna-house@adarna.com.ph).

E-mail the author at nenis-rc@gmail.com

THE DEPARTMENT of Education endorses the Buklat-Aklat project of National Book Store Foundation Inc., which promotes literacy and readership awareness. The project involves a roving mobile library that houses over 300 books for children aged 5-12 from foreign and local publishers, which will be made available to elementary public schools, public libraries and barangays. Buklat-Aklat will be launched on Nov. 14 at Tanauan North Central School, Tanauan, Batangas, with DepEd OIC Fe Hidalgo as special guest. At the signing were NBS founder and general manager Socorro Ramos, and Ramon Bacani and Ramon Hidalgo of DepEd; (standing) NBS Foundation chair Trina Alindogan and Anvil Publishing director Gwenn Galvez.



Exciting reads

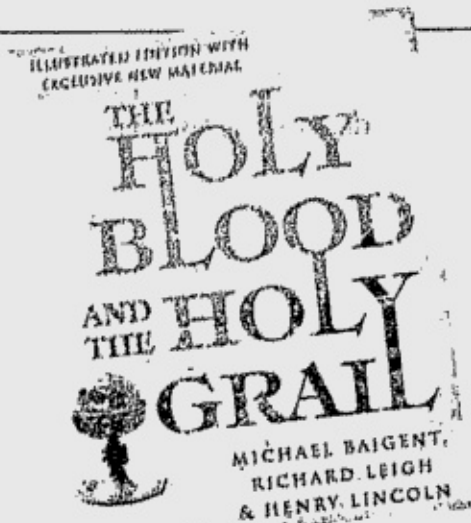
KNOW MORE ABOUT ONE OF THE BEST-kept secrets of Christendom with "Holy Blood, Holy Grail Illustrated Edition" by Michael Baigent, Henry Lincoln and Richard Leigh. This meticulously researched book challenges many traditional Christian beliefs.

John W. Mullins' "The New Business Road Test: What Entrepreneurs and Executives Should Do Before Writing a Business Plan" is the essential guide to starting your own business.

"101 Ideas: Kitchens" by Rebecca Tanqueray provides facts and expert solutions for kitchen renovations and makeovers that guide you from initial inspiration to finishing touches.

Dr. Atkins gives his hugely popular diet plan a makeover. His new book, "Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution," comes complete with new recipes, updated scientific information, and a more integrative approach to weight loss and total health.

Discover the most exceptional listing of spas around the world in "Spa" by Allison Arief and Bryan Burkjart. The book is beautifully photographed and comes with a listing of prices, services offered and contact information.



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Benedict XVI...

From page E1

the Church." The Catholic liturgy takes them beyond "the inane chatter and sophisticated discussions" of our present fads and feverish anxieties. "These Christians have voted with their feet against the universal inflation of words and the trivialization of language. They have much more confidence in the traditional symbols, in signs handed down from ancient times—signs that theology calls 'sacraments.'"

What these new Catholics are like, we see already in the "spiritual movements" that have kindled the Christian fire in so many countries of the world—the new lay communities which have arisen or developed remarkably in the last few decades. "The new Catholics are not afraid to be different from other people," Fischer sums up, "precisely because they are untroubled by the fact that they are the same as other people—all that matters is that they are allowed to be Catholic! Their great concern is that the Christian salt should not lose its flavor by an enforced assimilation to modern society."

Fischer's description of "Benedict XVI Catholics" not only makes for interesting reading; it will provoke considerable debate, no doubt, among those who will reflect on it. The final question will be, of course, "Is this truly what

Benedict XVI's own vision is?" Does Fischer see the future rightly from his long friendship with the new Pope? And of course, what surprises does the Holy Spirit still have for us?

It has been repeatedly said, by those who know JR, that the new pontificate will surely not be a merely transitional one. That rather it will be one marked by the new Pope's keen mind and theological wisdom, his firmness in decision, his passion for the Church and its commitment to "the splendor of truth" (Veritatis splendor) and its mission to be "light in the Lord" and hope for the world—in and through the paschal mystery of Christ. We are told that this will be an exciting pontificate, one of ideas and vision; that we have much to look forward to, even after "John Paul the Great."

With all the pluses and minuses of a quasi-official biography, Fischer's book, while trying to be even-handed, is evidently a "good friend's enthusiastic book." The information is quite rich and usually reliable, even if the style of the translation is sometimes too faithfully "Germanic," and rarely carries the flair and excitement that, e.g., John Allen's "The Rise of Benedict XVI" does. But it is surely worth getting and, at the local price, a bargain "must" as a first introduction to the new successor of Peter, thanks to Claretian Publications.

Recollections of regret

By Ruel S. De Vera

IT IS GENUINELY DIFFICULT not to feel sympathetic or at least have some scant pity for the unwilling and willing victims populating Angelo "Sarge" R. Lacuesta's new volume of short stories, "White Elephants: Stories" (Anvil Publishing, Pasig City, 2005, 130 pages), his second collection after the prize-winning "Life Before X and Other Stories" in 2000.

The 10 stories in "White" showcase Lacuesta's delicate sense of construction as well as his patient sense of drama. The poeticism in his scenes and sentences speak of a creeping despair, a sadness that falls like sunsets. It is very much as he puts it in the story "Procession": "We trade ghost stories. We're like islands ourselves and the water erodes all that is around us."

After all, the characters in these spare stories seem honestly convinced they have found a comfort zone, a momentary respite, perhaps even a road to redemption, when the wheels of their lives come spinning off like possessed Frisbees. And many of the wheels keep falling over and over again as "White Elephants" turns out to be about the inevitability of getting caught in the slipstream of everyday, middlebrow misfortune, all of the people unknowingly encountering the dharma of the bummer.

Thus the willowy alienation tip-toes into the room in the most mundane, most unexpected moments. In the gritty "Nilda," a young man's coming of age is marked by violence and the scent of mango trees. In the elegant "Ghosts," a domestic helper grapples with dilemma in a somewhat foreign land. The dark sci-fi of "New Wave Days" walks in disturbing tandem with the harsh absence of "Thousand Year Eye" and the haunting resignation of "Rest Stop." There is a roundabout process of unforeseen redemption in the act of buying a designer bag in "Leather," the same quality that deliberately goes unfound in "Self with Dog, 1997." In the opening story that shares the book's title, disasters personal and natural combine in a magnificent show of restraint and hopelessness.

Lacuesta's stories are not meant

for the lazy reader but for those who exult in the reading. There is no sentimental, narrative spoon-feeding to be found here; no big, loud revelation with the drum roll.

Hopeful zombies

"White Elephants" collects tales of how waiting for things to change turn people into zombies of hopefulness. With their measured descriptions and weighted dialogue, Lacuesta's stories are creatures of both stealth and swagger with the author never having to resort to

gimmickry or arch devices.

"I've loved all kinds of women. I have been through so many of them, lived inside so many of them, that it has often become hard to distinguish the real from them: their thoughts, their words, their gestures so simply and easily became mine," he writes in the titular story. "It's been said that when couples grow used to each other they start to look alike. I like to think it's because people start wearing their faces the same—pulling that same tired smile, or that same pained look or that same fixed, blank expression. I have worn all of these faces, on and off, for most of my life, not just trying them on like masks or items of clothing. But building them, tearing them down, and rebuilding them like heavy edifices that are built up and torn down through the seasons."

They are tales of missed chances, either purposeful or inadvertent, and of lost artifacts, like faded theme songs and yellowed letters. Yet "White Elephants" is really about the white noise instead of any kind of contrived clutter. At the end of every Lacuesta story is an expectant stillness, something more than a pregnant pause, more like a moment of enlightenment that waits before slipping away for the reader to pursue.

In this volume, Angelo R. Lacuesta draws a line in the sand with pen in hand, stating his case as a short-story writer imminently capable of stellar orbit, all the while, wielding "White Elephants" deftly to remind us that the cutting edge is efficiently beautiful as it is incandescently painful.

Humor in the gay world

MILFLORES PUBLISHING INC. has released "Brusko Pink, King Kong Barbies & Other Queer Files" by Louie Cano.

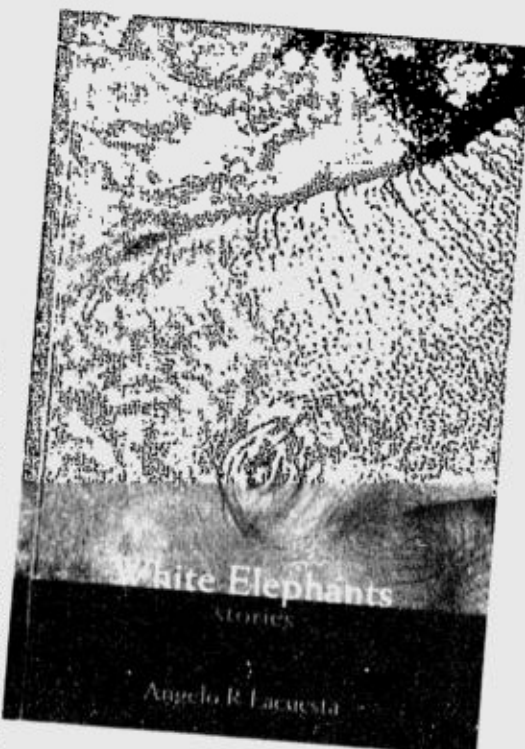
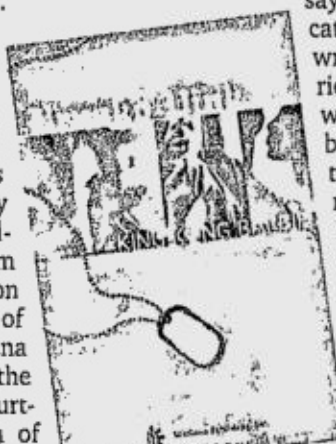
Cano captures in sizzling, at times poetic prose the incessant living, loving, losing, and learning that takes place in the gay world. His postmodern eye focuses, from various distances, on the "bitchboys" of Malate, the de Buena dollies of Makati, the fag hags of The Courtyard, the pee men of the Murphy streets, the cocky lesbos of Anonas, the "brusko" pinkies in the gyms, and much more, to create a truly fascinating world. His short essays are hilariously funny, acer-

bic, ironic and self-deprecatory—but never apologetic.

The author has published essays in various publications. He was a writer for the TV series "Batibot" and worked for a number of radio stations. He studied marketing at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and now works in advertising and marketing.

The book is available at National Book Store, PowerBooks, Books for Less and other major book stores at P320 per copy.

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Future first couple?

THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF MR. & MS. FEATURES popular husband and wife, Sen. Ralph Recto and Vilma Santos, who might one day take residence in Malacañang.

Mr. & Ms. features an intimate tete-a-tete with Vilma, who shares stories about Ralph's courtship, their life and careers together. Meanwhile, Ralph gives a glimpse of Vilma as a wife and a mother to his kids.

The issue also features actor Johnny Delgado and director Laurice Guillen, who explain their show-biz hiatus, their attempt to know more about the Catholic faith, and their struggle to bring up their kids.

The special holiday shopping supplement, the Colors of Christmas, provides helpful gift suggestions, tips to wrap up presents, and more.

Alice Villadolid writes about "The Furious Spirits of Katrina and Katerina," about the hurricane that flattened New Orleans and the saints who share the name of the catastrophe.

The issue focuses on healing. "Regression Therapy" focuses on looking into past lives to heal the present, and "Therapeutic Aspect of Colors" emphasizes the curative value of hues.



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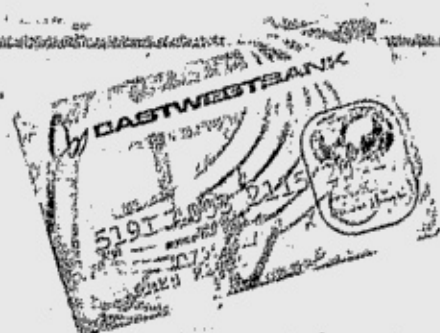
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The fun and discernment in diseases

By Ralph Semino Galán
Contributor

SICKNESS IS OFTEN SEEN ONLY in terms of its medical and mechanical components, not its metaphorical and metonymic possibilities. An illness, thus, is reduced to a series of symptoms lacking in symbolic significance, and the human mind and body as mere indicators of physical condition.

"My Fair Maladies" [Quezon City: Milflores Publishing Inc., 2005, 215 pages], a compendium of funny essays and poems on various ailments and afflictions, looks at diseases and disorders not only with a clinical eye, but also as a veritable source of personal anecdotes and poetic insights.

Edited by prizewinning fictionist and essayist Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, the book covers a wide range of afflictions, from mild peculiarities to extreme dislikes, different types of phobia and paranoia, obsessive-compulsive behaviors and suicidal tendencies, and even nervous breakdown.

The confessional nature of the essays and poems reveal the more human and humane facets of the erudite people who are featured in the book. One discovers, for example, that premier poet and literary critic Gemino H. Abad ("Somewhere I Have Never Traveled") has a poor sense of direction, a malady he shares with the equally illustrious Lourdes Reyes Montinola ("Where Am I?"), Far Eastern University board chair.

One also learns that Susan S. Lara is a neat freak ("My Name is Susan, and I Am Anal-Retentive"), Butch Dalisay abhors cheese ("No

Cheese, Please"), Susan Evangelista suffers from claustrophobia ("Canary in the Coal Mine") and Vicente Garcia Groyon has a penchant for counting quantifiable things, including the syllables in all forms of oral communication ("Ock Ock").

The list of physical ailments includes migraines and headaches, stress urinary incontinence, all sorts of eye trouble, alopecia (baldness), polio, sinusitis, hemorrhagic fever (dengue), appendicitis, influenza, epistaxis (nosebleed), asthma, tonsillitis, various allergies, osteoarthritis, as well as cancer.

There is also a special section on growing old, which our visually prejudiced world, bombarded as it were by the ideological state apparatuses with simulated images of youth and beauty, now considers as a kind of disease, if not total disaster.

As objects of desire, females are most susceptible to do everything and anything to stop the aging process dead on its track just to satisfy the male gaze. Remember Meryl Streep and Goldie Hawn in "Death Becomes Her"?

Ma. Josefina T. Barrios' "Botoxday" chronicles a middle-aged woman's first encounter with the latest craze in non-invasive cosmetic enhancement. In keeping with the spirit of the book, the tone of the poem is mock-serious, although it turns unabashedly romantic in the last stanza: "Ano nga bang maisusukli ng binata/ Sa kanyang katanghalian?/ Isang ngiti./ Bulas ng pagtangi./ At naglaho sa aking puso./ Biglang-bigla./ Bawat gusot, bawat gata./"

Fat sickness

Another physical condition that contemporary women suffer from, which the odalisques of Rubens were worshipped for, is the "curse" of being vertically challenged. Charlene Per-

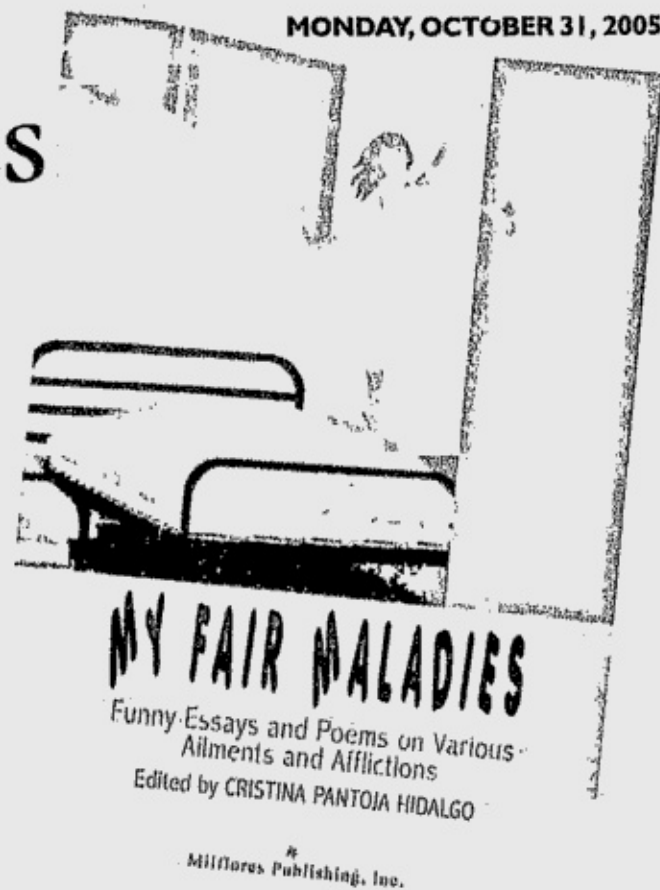
nandez in her essay, "You Know I Know I'm Fat (So Stop Telling Me That!)," confronts the issue head on, stating categorically that, "I figure that people who tell you that you're fat by way of a social greeting labor under some misconceptions: (1) that being fat is a deliberate choice rather than the result of a medical condition or some cosmic accident; (2) that fat people wish to be fat in order to offend other people with their fatness; and (3) that it is fun to be fat."

Tara FT Sering, on the other hand, writes about that form of madness better known as love in "The Divine Affliction: Nine Signs You Have it Bad."

Each of the 64 writers in the book has dealt with his or her particular malady in his or her own unique way: using liniments (Nestor Leynes Jr. in "Borher-ding" and April Timbol Yap in "Knee-deep in Ointment"), wearing corrective glasses and/or contact lenses (Erinda Enriquez Panlilio in "My Confused Eyes" and Migs Villanueva in "Eye Do, Eye Don't," among others), through sheer perseverance (Jose Wendell P. Capili in "Coping with ADHD"), or even the proverbial fighting spirit in the face of a degenerative disease like leukemia (Tita Taule Mina in "The Diagnosis").

But what all of them share in common is the tendency to rely on self-reflection and self-reflexivity to provide them with meaning and mythmaking in relation to their ailments and afflictions. Those who have lost the battle in the medical front have decided to declare a truce with their diseases and disorders, which is the right attitude.

In his illuminating book, "Care for the Soul," Thomas Moore has this to say regarding how we should expand our view of sickness: "Illness is an enemy, but we've already



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obsessions

lived out that myth with conviction. Now may be the time to see illness as the stranger who needs a place to stay and be cared for."

Unlike Susan Sontag who is suspicious of metaphors and prefers a thoroughly medical perspective of sickness as illustrated in her two books, "Illness as Metaphor" and "AIDS and Its Metaphors," where she demystifies "the punitive or sentimental fantasies" surrounding certain diseases to expose the so-called "truth," the writers in "My Fair Maladies" celebrate the imaginative aspects of their ailments and afflictions. They treat diseases as the root of unbearable pain and suffering, but also as the wellspring of personal discernment, funny or otherwise.

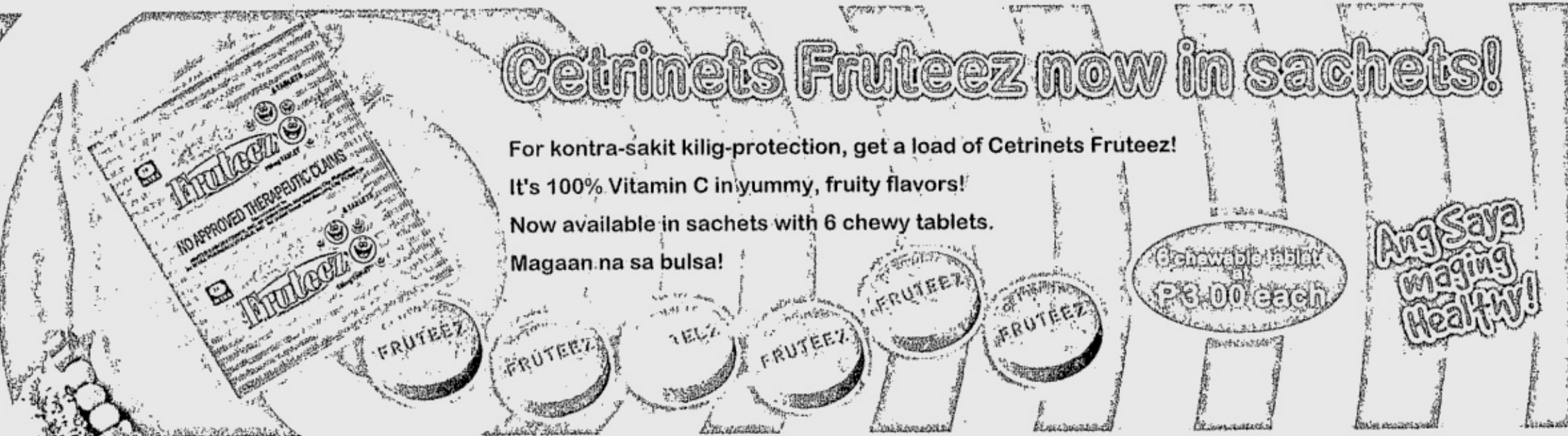
Cetrinets Fruteez now in sachets!

For kontra-sakit kilig-protection, get a load of Cetrinets Fruteez!

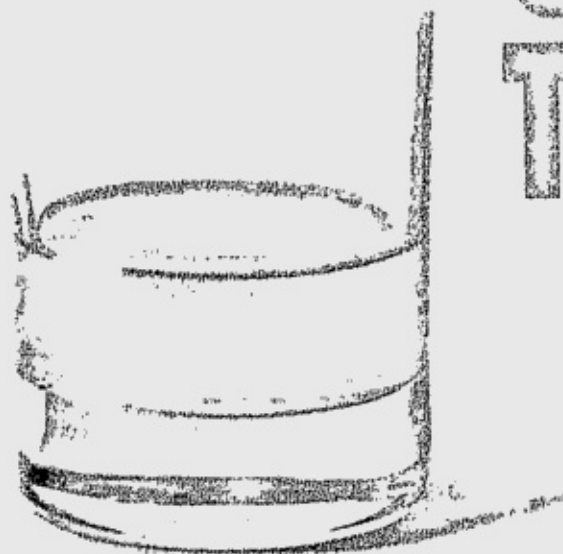
It's 100% Vitamin C in yummy, fruity flavors!

Now available in sachets with 6 chewy tablets.

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New Fresh Citrus Listerine
Less intense fruity flavor that flushes out
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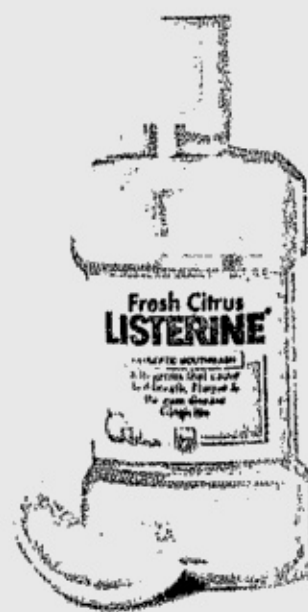
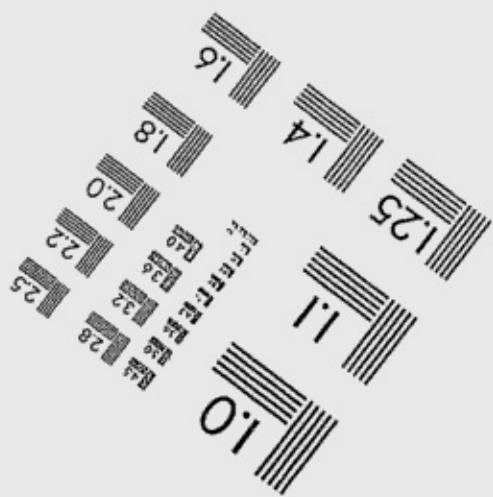
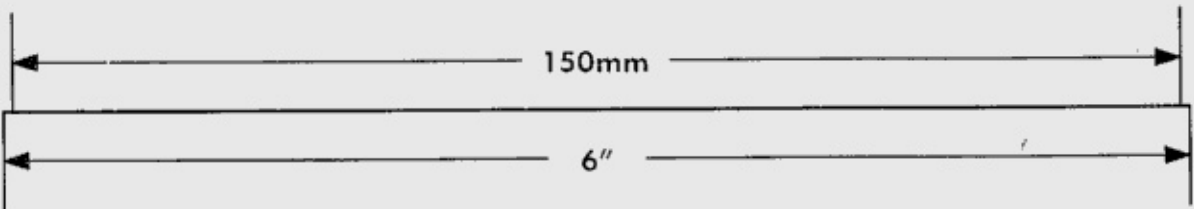
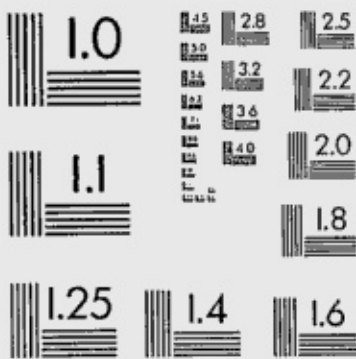
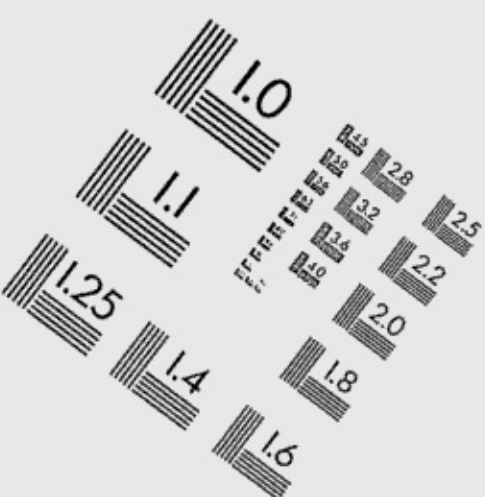
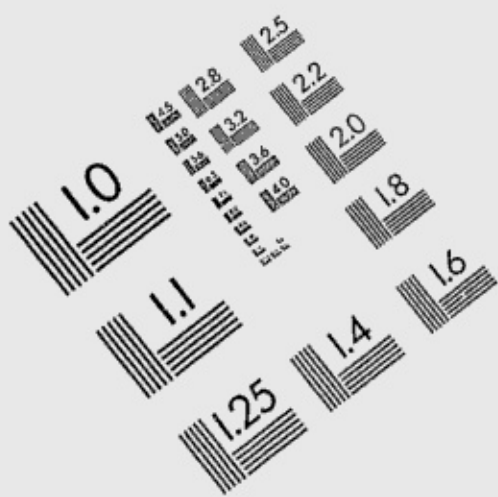
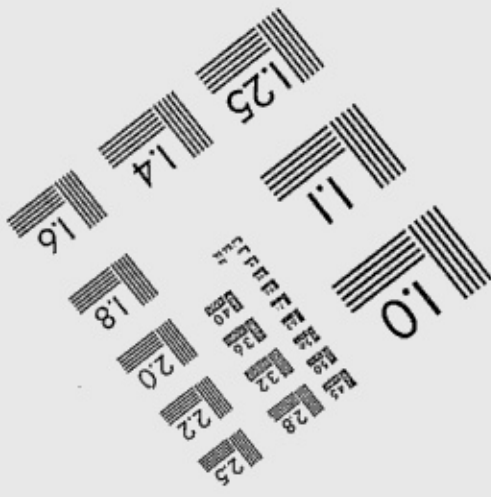
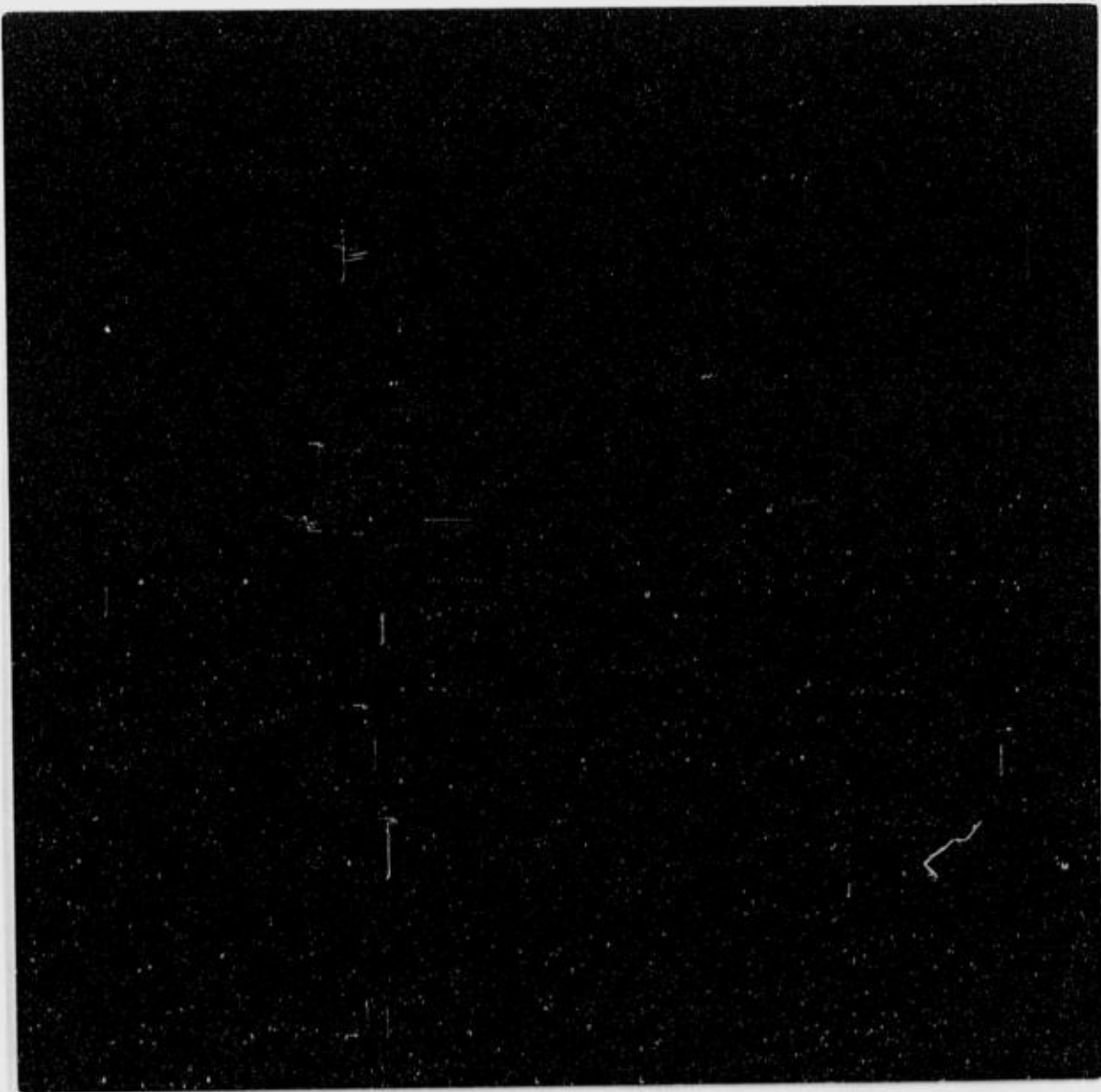
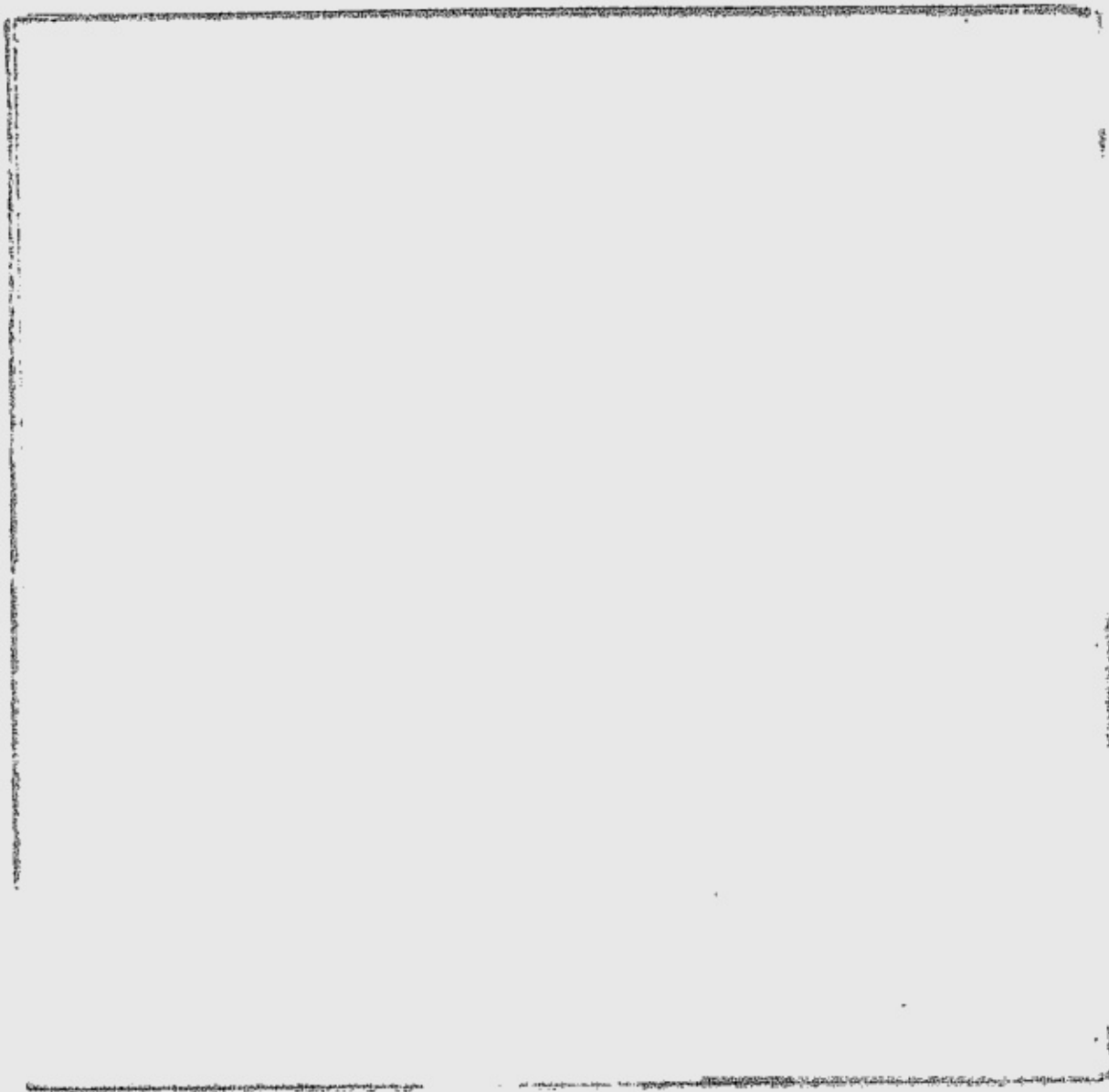


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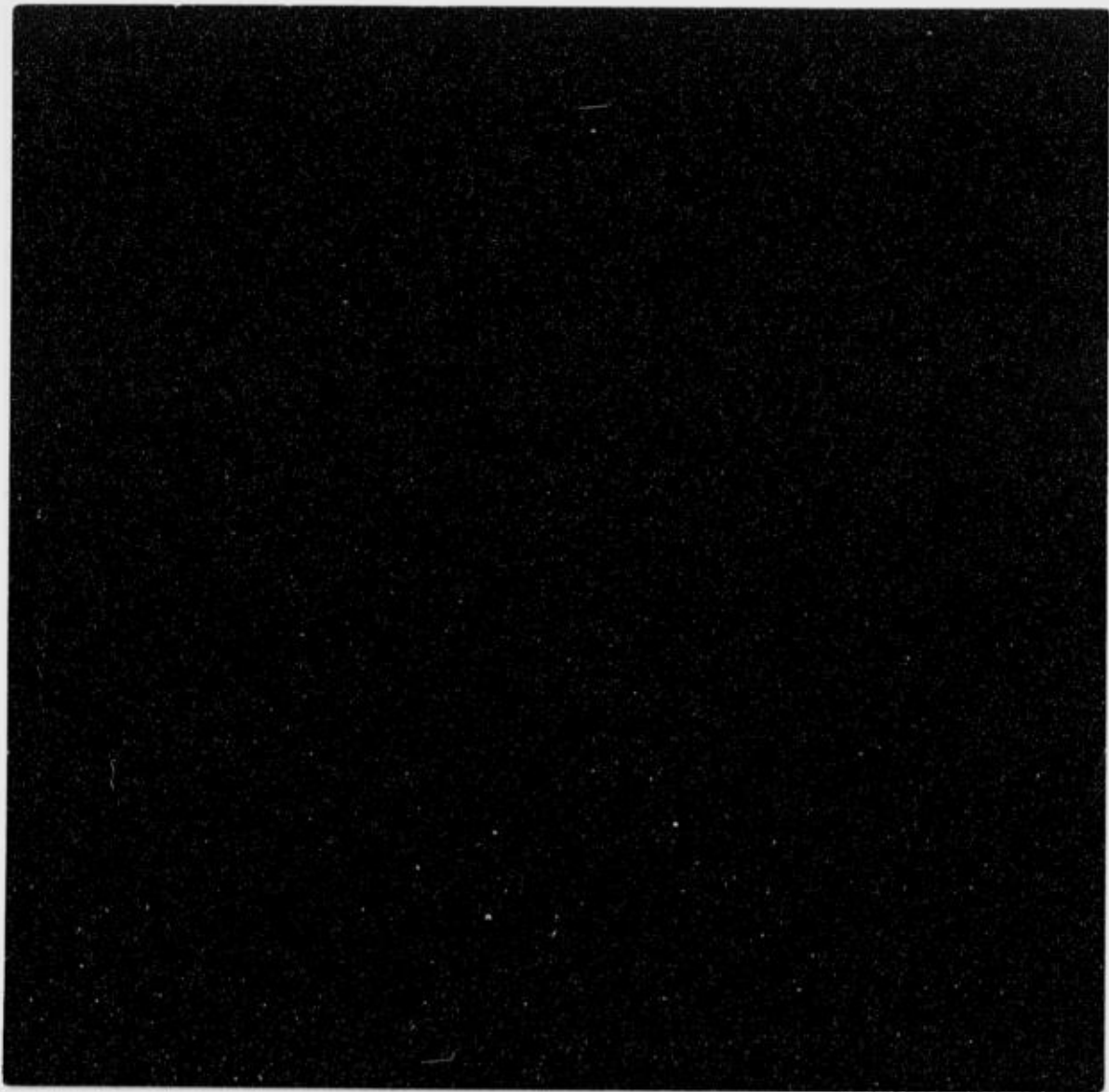
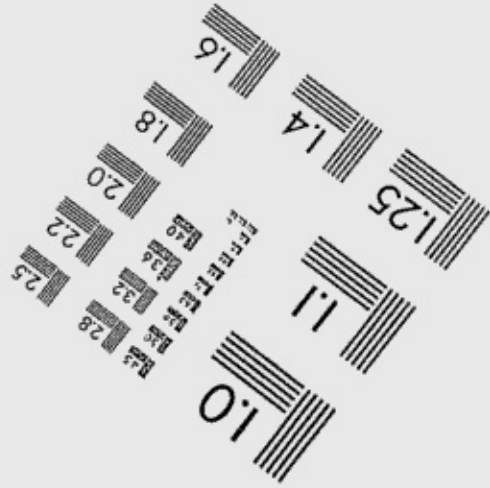
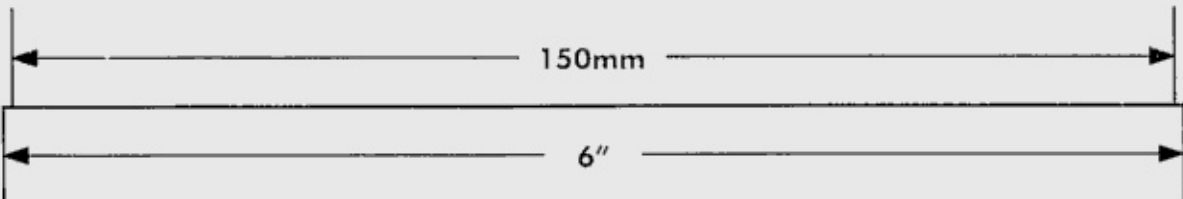
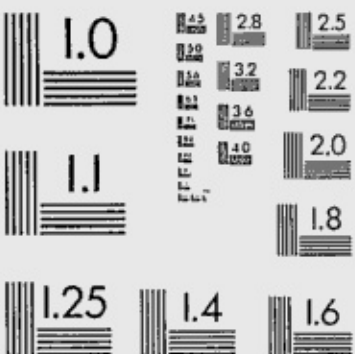
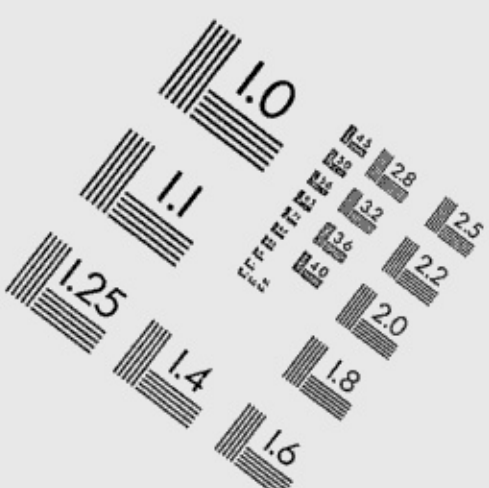
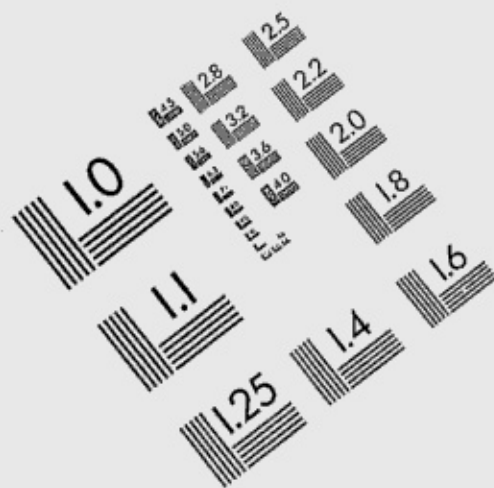


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